

Adopted: November 2015

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HEAD LICE POLICY

RATIONALE

While parents have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, schools also have a role in the management of head lice infections and in providing support for parents and students.

AIMS

- To minimise the spread of head lice infection.
- To minimise the anxiety associated with head lice by acknowledging that most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time.
- To provide a comprehensive management plan that incorporates information provision, parental responsibilities, contact person, school attendance restrictions, treatment advice, inspection proformas, confidentiality, and a commitment to reduce the stigma attached to head lice infections.
- To assist parents in the detection and treatment of head lice.

IMPLEMENTATION

To support parents/carers and the broader school community to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management the school will:

- Train appropriate school personnel in detection and management of head lice at the school level.
- Nominate a Head Lice Support person who conducts inspections of students whose parents have given consent, teachers and school staff as needed
- Announce that the school complies with Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Division's guidelines 'Treating and Controlling Head Lice' (found at www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/regulations.htm) via the school newsletter at least once per year.
- Seek consent from parents to head lice inspections of students on enrolment.
- Distribute up-to-date information on the detection, safe treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff as available or required.
- The Head Lice Support person will complete a Head Lice Check Report which will be sent to parents of those students found to have head lice. The Report will ask parents to advise of the type of treatment and when treatment commenced. These students will be checked again ten days after the first notification.
- Require that parents/guardians do not send students to school with untreated head lice. (It should be noted that students may be treated one evening and return to school the next day and that the presence of eggs in the hair is not

cause for exclusion. Parents/guardians need to be aware that one treatment is not sufficient to manage the problem. If a student re-attends school with live head lice the school may again exclude the student until the live insects have been removed.)

- Commit to maintain confidentiality following any incident involving head lice inspection or detection. All students involved in inspections will be given a letter to help reduce the stigma and maintain confidentiality.

It is the expectation of parents/carers and families attending this school that they will:

- Regularly (preferably once per week) inspect their children's hair for lice or eggs (using conditioner and a head lice comb is the most effective method)
- Not allow students to attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009*).
- Tie hair back if it is long.
- Inspect all household members followed by treatment if head lice are detected.
- Immediately notify the school if head lice are detected, including when treatment has commenced.
- If head lice are detected by the school, return the Head Lice Check Report with information about the type and commencement date of treatment.
- Maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising or blaming students/families who are finding it hard to control head lice.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.

Information about head lice, including treating and controlling head lice is available from the Department of Health and Human Services website:
<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/index.htm>

RESPONSIBILITY

Principal, staff and parents.

APPENDICIES

- Appendix A - Consent for Inspection – in enrolment form
- Appendix B - Headlice Check Report and Treatment Reply Slip

Appendix A - Head Lice Consent Form.

This form is part of the school enrolment form.

HEAD LICE INSPECTION

The school has a responsibility to help manage head lice.

On occasions it may be necessary to arrange for a qualified person to conduct a head lice inspection as per school policy.

I consent to my child's participation in the school's head lice management program.

Signature of parent/guardian _____

**BULN BULN PRIMARY SCHOOL
HEAD LICE CHECK REPORT**

Student's Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

Dear Parent,

Today your child's class was inspected for head lice by a trained staff member.

The result for your child was

_____ No lice or eggs found.

_____ Dead eggs found (old infestation – no treatment necessary)

_____ Live eggs found. (treatment necessary)

_____ Live lice found. (treatment necessary)

Live lice or eggs must be treated with a method that has killed or removed live eggs and lice before your child is returned to school.

The attached fact sheet contains information about treating and controlling head lice.

For this program to remain a success, your co-operation is vital. A trained staff member will check your child again 10 days after returning to school.

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HEAD LICE TREATMENT REPLY SLIP

(to be returned to school with child after treatment)

My child has been treated to remove or kill live eggs and/or lice.

Child's Name _____

Has been treated with

(Type of treatment) on(date)

Signed..... Date.....