



HEADLICE

POLICY

Rationale:

• Head lice can cause concern and frustration for parents, teachers and children. This school policy is intended to outline roles, responsibilities and expectations of the school community to assist with the treating and controlling of head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner.

Aims:

- Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice our school community will work to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.
- This school policy draws on the information Pamphlet and Management Guidelines 'Scratching for Answers?' from the Department of Human Services.

Implementation:

The school expects parents /carers and families of children attending this school to:

- Check children's hair for head lice on a regular basis, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method
- Treat detected headlice or eggs (nit) prior to attending school.
- Notify the school if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment commenced. (in accordance with Health Infectious Disease Regulations 2001)
- Notify parents or carers of your child's friends so they have an early opportunity to detect and treat their children if necessary.
- Maintain a sympathetic attitude to avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulties with control measures.
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community especially around issues of head lice.

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

- Distribute up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of the year or more frequently if required.
- Include information in school newsletters.
- Provide practical advice.
- Access community educational resources and support, as needed.
- Send a letter in an envelope to go home informing parents that head lice have been sighted and in accordance with Victorian Government Health Information site, the children will not be excluded from school. Children with head lice can be readmitted to school after treatment has commenced.
- Encourage children to learn about head lice.
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community around the issues of head lice.
- Maintain a sympathetic attitude to avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulties with control measures.

Evaluation:

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

This policy was last ratified by School Council in October 2009