



Vision: To ensure that all students develop to their full potential and become respected and respectful members of the community.

HEAD LICE POLICY

Rationale:

Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. While they do not carry or transmit disease, they are a cause of head itch and scratching, which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands; therefore, they need to be controlled.

Aims:

- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- To ensure effective processes for treating head lice are well known and consistently followed.
- To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice and their treatment.

Implementation:

- Anyone can catch head lice. Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They spread from person to person by head to head contact, and may also be spread by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and hats.
- While it is parents who have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children, the school will assist by offering up-to-date information, by offering a screening process, and by alerting parents of lice when detected.
- The school principal will ensure all teachers and aides are provided with professional development regarding head lice, who will then be authorised to carry out visual checks of students heads for head lice (observations without touching of the students head or hair). The principal will also identify specific staff members to carry out head lice inspections (physical examinations) of students head and hair for the presence of head lice.
- The school will ask parents to sign a permission form allowing their children to be inspected by our specific staff members for the presence of head lice. Only children whose parents have returned the permission form will be inspected, however, all students may be visually checked. (see Form below).
- Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, the principal will ensure that the parents of any child found to have live lice are informed that their child is to be excluded from attending school until appropriate treatment has commenced. When a case of head lice is notified, parents with children in the same class will be notified.
- Upon their return to school, parents of excluded children may be required to complete an 'action taken form', which requires parents/guardians/carers to nominate if and when the treatment has started.
- The principal will also provide parents of children found to have live lice with information about head lice treatment and prevention. (Available from - www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/)
- On occasions when parents are unable to collect a student with lice infestation, parents will be asked to consent to the application of conditioner to the child's hair to prevent further infestation.
- The principal will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice appears throughout the year in the school newsletter, particularly at times of heavy infestations.

Evaluation:

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

Reviewed February 2010.