



POLICY:

HEADLICE

POLICY COORDINATOR:

PRINCIPAL

**PURPOSE:**

Head Lice continue to cause concern and frustration for some parents, teachers and children. This school policy outlines roles, responsibilities and expectations of the school community to assist with treating and controlling head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner.

Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, our school community will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

**Reference:** Information Pamphlet and Management Guidelines 'Scratching for Answers?' (Public Health Division, Department of Human Services)

**AIMS :**

- To create and maintain a well informed school community, confident in its ability to manage head lice.
- To ensure that all members of the school community act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with issues regarding the management of head lice.
- To ensure that no children attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with Health Infectious Diseases Regulations 2001).

**School Responsibility:**

- To maintain a sympathetic attitude towards the management of head lice.
- 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, after checks and more frequently if required.
- To issue to families consent forms for Parent Managed head lice inspections.
- To only inspect the heads of children whose parents who have given prior consent.
- To access community educational resources and support such as Primary School nurses and Shire Health Officers.
- To abide by the recommendations of the School Exclusion Policy of the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001 in that responsibility to exclude a child from school rests with the principal or person in charge and only exclude children with live lice from school.

**Expectations of Parents/Carers/Families:**

- To check children's hair for head lice on a weekly basis using the recommended conditioner/ combing detection method.
- If lice are found, to treat with safe and recommended preparations; check all family members for lice and treat as necessary.
- To notify the school if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced.
- To ensure that your child does not attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with Health Infectious Diseases Regulations 2001).
- To encourage children with long hair to attend school with their hair tied back.

## **IMPLEMENTATION:**

### **The school will:**

- Include information about head lice management in orientation and transition programs for new families/staff attending the school and will post information on the school website.
- Include information updates in the school newsletter.
- Implement head lice checks by a Parent Managed Group as required.
- Include staff in head lice inspections.
- Nominate a school contact person for information about the management of head lice.
- Accept the advice of parents that appropriate treatment has commenced.

## **EVALUATION:**

- This policy will be reviewed with student, parent and community input as part of the school's four year review cycle or more regularly if required. Ratified 2023