



Sale Primary School No 545

## **Head Lice Policy**

### **Rationale**

Head lice have been around for many thousands of years. People get head lice from direct hair to hair contact with another person who has head lice. Best evidence at this time indicates 3% - 11% of the school population has head lice at any given time.

Head lice does not carry or transmit disease, but can create high stress levels, social stigmatisation with families and in school communities.

### **Purpose**

This school policy is intended to outline role, responsibilities and expectations of the school community; to assist with treating and controlling head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner.

### **Guidelines**

Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, our school community will work cooperatively and collaboratively to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

#### *School's Responsibility*

1. Abide by the recommendation of the School Exclusion Policy of the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001 in that the responsibility to exclude a child from school rests with the principal or person in charge;
2. Every endeavour made to exclude children from school with live insects.
3. Accept the advice of parents that appropriate treatment has commenced;
4. Provide practical advice and maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures;

#### *Parental Responsibility*

1. Children with long hair will attend school with hair tied back;
2. Parents/carers will notify the school if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced (in accordance with Health Infectious Disease Regulations 2001);
3. That your child does not attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with Health Infectious Disease Regulations 2001
4. Collect children with live headlice when notified by the school.

# Head Lice Program

## Purpose

School, families and local community working together to minimise and manage head lice infestation and the social stresses they can lead to.

## Implementation

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

1. Children's hair will be checked for head lice on a weekly basis, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method;
2. All household members are regularly inspected and treated if necessary;
3. Use only safe and recommended practices to treat head lice;
4. Notify the school and parents or carers of your child's friends so they have an early opportunity to detect and treat their children if necessary;
5. Maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures.

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

1. 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 (also to be included in the school information booklet) or more frequently if required;
2. Include information about head lice management in orientation and transition programs for new families/staff attending the school;
3. Include information and updates in school newsletter;
4. Provision of classroom activities to give students an understanding of the habits and life-cycle of head lice in order to minimise the incidence of stigmatisation of particular students and families;
5. Access community educational resources and support, such as primary school nurses, community health centres and local government;
6. The nomination of a head lice resource/support person (parent or staff member) who parents can contact at the school at nominated times.
7. Coordinate regular head lice checks conducted by health care professionals at the school.

## Evaluation

- Review the head lice policy annually and seek endorsement from the School Council/Community;
- Participate in a Head Lice Local Area Network to work with other school, childcare centres, health services and pharmacists in our Local Government Area to achieve consistent management and policy across sectors.