



Head Lice Policy

RATIONALE

At any given time most schools have some students with head lice.

While the parents have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, the school has a role in providing support for parents and students.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The school has a responsibility to promote the physical health and wellbeing of all students.

Confidentiality and the right to privacy will be respected at all times when dealing with sensitive matters.

IMPLEMENTATION

The following three procedures will ensure our support for the parents, students and staff:

1. School Newsletter - Information Dissemination

To keep parents informed about the management and treatment of head lice, it is recommended that at the start of every school year an up-to-date information pamphlet is attached to the school newsletter with a reminder to parents on their, and the school's, role in managing head lice.

2. Appropriate Treatment

Under the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, it is stated that a child must be **excluded from school** until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced.

This means a child with head lice can be treated one evening and return to school the next day, even if there are some eggs present.

3. Inspection

Local government workers no longer have authority to examine students for head lice without written parental permission.

If it is thought a student has head lice, their Year Level Coordinator is to ring the parents to inform them.

If it is necessary to inspect the student's head, a written permission form must be sent home first for the parents to sign. The Assistant Principal or School Health Promotion Nurse will then inspect the child's hair.

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...

November 2016