

# Head Lice Policy

## 1. PURPOSE

- a. 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. This may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands therefore and they need to be controlled.
- b. Anyone can catch head lice. They cannot fly, hop or jump but spread from person to person by head to head contact. Research indicates that they do not spread through the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and hats.

## 2. AIMS

- a. To respond quickly and effectively to reports of head lice.
- b. To ensure information and effective processes for treating head lice are well known by parents/guardians and consistently followed by the school community.
- c. To provide support and assistance to families managing student head lice.

## 3. IMPLEMENTATION

- a. Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, the school aims to work cooperatively and collaboratively to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.
- b. Some staff will be authorised to carry out head lice inspections of student's head and hair for the presence of head lice.
- f. As a preventative strategy all students will be inspected for head lice in weeks one and five of each term. Any student found with head lice will be checked by another authorised staff member to confirm the diagnosis.
- g. All students inspected will be provided with a confidential report indicating to parents/guardians the results of the inspection.
- d. Consistent with Infectious Diseases *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009*, students found to have live lice can be excluded from school until appropriate treatment has commenced. Action taken will involve;

**At the end of the school day, providing the child with a note to take home to tell their parents that they may have head lice. Children can return to school after treatment has commenced.**

- h. Parents should sign a [Headlice Treatment – Reply Slip] which indicates the date treatment commenced and the name of the treatment applied.
- i. Any returning students will undergo another inspection from an authorised staff member upon recommencement at school and monitored regularly e.g. once a week.

HVS has zero tolerance for any form of child abuse

- j. Students with long hair should have it tied back, consistent with the school's Dress Code.
- k. Encourage children to learn about head lice so as to help remove any stigma or judgement associated with the issue.
- l. Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community around issues of head lice, providing extra support, information and resources as necessary.
- m. School families will be requested to support a designated night per week to regularly check/treat their child's hair eg. Friday.
- n. Include regular information about headlice in the school newsletter.

#### **4. REFERENCE**

- a. State Government Victoria: Victoria's Hub for Health Services and Businesses  
<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/head-liceGuidelines>

#### **5. EVALUATION**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four yearly review cycle.

**This DRAFT Policy was ratified in 2017.  
Date for next review: 2018**



## Head Lice Notice

Dear Parent/Carer,

Your child was checked for the presence of head lice today. The results of the check are:

- No lice or eggs detected
- Eggs detected
- Dead insects detected
- Live insects detected

Therefore the following action is required:

- Child's hair treated, and all insects are killed or removed before they return to school.
- Removal of eggs from hair (use of fine tooth comb)
- No action required

**Please note:** All children who are found to have live insects will be re-checked by school staff after returning to school to ensure the infestation has been effectively treated.

Regards,

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Head Lice Treatment – Reply Slip

If your child was detected with live lice, please return this slip when your child returns to school.

I have treated my child's head for the removal of head lice.

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date treatment commenced: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of treatment applied: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_