



Kialla Central Primary School - 1366

HEAD LICE POLICY

(Ratified by School Council on 17th February 2014 to be reviewed in February 2017)

Rationale:

Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. Probably between 2-3% of primary school children are infested at any one time. 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.
- A requirement of parents/guardians is to not send their child/ren to school with untreated head lice. 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 school until appropriate treatment has commenced. It should be noted that students may be treated one evening and return to school the next day and the presence of eggs in the hair is not a cause for exclusion. Parents/guardians need to be aware that *one* treatment is not sufficient to manage the problem. If a student re-attends school with live head lice the school will exclude the student until the live lice have been removed.
- Training of appropriate school personnel in detection and management of head lice at the school level.
- The school will ask parents to sign a permission form (refer to attached) 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.
- All children checked or inspected will be provided with a confidential report indicating to parents the results of the inspection (refer to attached).
- Parents/guardians will be advised to check their child/ren's hair for lice or lice eggs on a regular basis (preferably once a week). Using conditioner and a head lice comb is the most effective method. Check all members of the household followed by treatment if head lice are detected.
- Upon detection of head lice, the school needs to be notified and advised of when treatment commenced.
- The Principal will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice is available at the school and in the newsletter, as required.

Evaluation:

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