

HEAD LICE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

3/2015

The following head lice policy is formulated in consultation with the Department of Health. It is endorsed by the School Board.

Identification of head lice is essential to prevent person-to-person spread of head lice.



Responsibilities

Parents / Carers – know the school policy, focus on prevention strategies at home, support the school by responding to treatment of student hair when lice/eggs identified.

School Nurse - provides advice on the prevention and treatment of head lice to families.

School – develops, implements and reviews practices in operation.

Head Lice Coordinator - will liaise with Class teachers / Education Assistants to regularly check student hair. Schedule for hair check is 1-2 times a term.

The following school procedures describing the management of head lice and the involvement of parents is endorsed by the School Board.

- School Nurse provides information on detection and effective treatment strategies.
- Establish a routine with EA/Class teachers to check student hair at least once a term.
- Consult with Admin to confirm presence of live lice prior to contacting parents
- School synchronised head lice checks at home prior to each term beginning

PROCEDURE FOR SCHOOL HEAD LICE CHECKS

1. *Parent contact if child identified with head lice. Initially by telephone with follow up in written form. This will include the need for treatment to commence prior to return. **As per DOE requirements parents are encouraged to collect their child for immediate treatment. If parent unable to collect child, student returns to class and should wear a hat in class to avoid further spread.***
2. *All students in the classroom of an infected student should take home an 'alert note'. This note will act as a useful warning to other parents to check their children's hair.*
3. *Parent complete and return a 'Confirmation of Treatment'. This will be monitored at reception and not in the classroom. It should provide the school with action taken at home prior to re entry.*
4. *Data base of students across the school established for easy access and regular monitoring.*
5. *Ongoing occurrences (of head lice), where it is evident no follow up treatment is provided, must be referred to the school principal. The principal will meet with parents and formulate an individualised Management Plan. Assistance will be sought from the School Nurse.*
6. *All students requiring treatment for head lice need to have hair checked by parent over a ten day period to ensure all eggs/lice eradicated period. This is an important strategy in ensuring eradication.*