



Head lice policy

Rationale

Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. Probably between two and three per cent 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 and by alerting parents of lice when detected
- Written consent for Head Lice Checks is included on the Student Enrolment form. Parents are asked to sign this allowing their child to be inspected by trained professionals
- The School Principal will ensure all Teachers and Aides are provided with professional development regarding head lice, who will then be authorised to carry out visual checks of students heads for head lice (observations without touching of the students head or hair)
- 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 attending school until appropriate treatment has commenced
- Upon their return to school, parents of excluded children must present a signed declaration in the form of a letter indicating that appropriate treatment has commenced
- The Principal will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice appears throughout the year in the school newsletter, particularly at times of heavy infestations

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's School Review

Ratified by School Council June 2016