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# HEAD LICE POLICY

## Purpose

Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, our school community will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

## Guidelines

### Parents/carers will:

1. Ensure children's hair will be checked for head lice on a regular basis, at home by using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method;
2. Ensure that children will not attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with Health Infectious Diseases Regulations 2001);
3. Notify the school if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced (in accordance with Health Infectious Disease Regulations 2001);
4. Ensure children with longer than shoulder length hair attend school with hair tied back;
5. Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community on the issue of head lice.

### The school will:

1. Distribute up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of the year or more frequently if required;
2. Include information and updates in school newsletters;
3. Abide by the recommendations of the School Exclusion Policy of the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001 in that the responsibility to exclude a child from the school rests with the principal or person in charge;
4. Only exclude children with live insects from school;
5. Notify parents in the grade level where an outbreak has occurred;
6. Accept the advice of parents that appropriate treatment has commenced;
7. Educate children to learn about head lice so as to help remove any stigma or 'bullying' associated with the issue;
8. Ensure that the designated First Aid Officer undertakes 'head lice inspections' and adheres to the school policy and latest Department of Human Services information and Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001;
9. The First Aid officer is the designated person to undertake head lice inspections;
10. The First Aid Officer must have prior parent/carer permission before inspecting children's hair for the presence of head lice.

**Ratified by Council - 2016**

**Review - 2020**