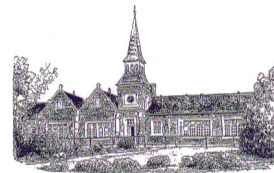


Head Lice Policy

Daylesford Primary School 2016



Purpose

Head lice are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. They are a cause of head itch and scratching, which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands; therefore, they need to be controlled.

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.

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

1. 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 confidential and individual screening process, and by alerting parents of lice when detected (**Head Lice Reporting Letter**).
2. 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 infestation.
3. The school will ask parents to sign a permission form upon enrolment, allowing their children to have an individual hair inspection by trained staff. Only children whose parents have completed the permission form will be inspected, however, all students may be visually checked. All children inspected will be provided with a **Confidential Report** indicating to parents the results of the inspection as well as advice on the latest information regarding head lice.
4. Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, the Principal will ensure that the parents of any child found to have live lice are informed that their child is to be excluded immediately from attending school until appropriate treatment has commenced. (**Head Lice Check Report**).
5. Upon their return to school, parents of excluded children must present the signed declaration indicating that appropriate treatment has commenced (**Head Lice Treatment Reply**). All excluded children will undergo another inspection from our trained staff upon recommencement of school.

Supporting Documentation

This school policy draws on information obtained from the:

- *Headlice Management Toolkit* published by the Department of Education and Training :<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/headlice.aspx>
 - Treating and Controlling head lice pamphlet produced by the Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/Api/downloadmedia/%7BE9F66368-57D9-4410-AACB-6E10ED4CD182%7D>
 - Public Health and Well Being Act 2008: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/Api/downloadmedia/%7BE9F66368-57D9-4410-AACB-6E10ED4CD182%7D>
 - <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice>
- See also: Daylesford Primary School and Annexes First Aid Policy

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed every three years, or more frequently as required, and will incorporate any mandated updates that may be issued.

Version: April 2016

Ratified: 26th April, 2016.

Version: April 2016