

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To outline and reinforce an effective and consistent approach to the management of head lice infections.

2. Scope

- 2.1 While parents/guardians have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, schools also have a role in the management of head lice infections and in providing support for parents/guardians and students.
- 2.2 That all staff and parents/guardians are aware of their responsibility in the detection and management of head lice.

3. Policy

- 3.1 Parent/Guardians are responsible for:

- 3.1.1 Regularly (preferably once a week) inspecting their child/ren's hair to look for head lice or lice eggs and regularly inspecting all household members and then treating them if necessary;
- 3.1.2 Upon detecting head lice, notify the school and advise when treatment has commenced; and
- 3.1.3 Ensuring their child/ren does not attend school with untreated head lice.

- 3.2 The school is responsible for:

- 3.2.1 Distributing policies and information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents/carers and staff and having accessible clear protocols for the inspection program that the school implements;
- 3.2.2 Obtaining written parental consent to conduct head lice inspections;
- 3.2.3 Checking student's hair if the presence of head lice is suspected;
- 3.2.4 Encouraging students to learn about head lice so as to help remove any stigma or 'bullying' associated with the issue;
- 3.2.5 Being aware that the responsibility to exclude a child/ren from school rests with the principal. Only child/ren with live head lice will be excluded from school until treatment has been undertaken to remove the head lice;
- 3.2.6 Child/ren found with lice eggs only may remain at school but will be sent home with a note requesting the parent/guardian/carer undertake head lice treatment as soon as possible; and
- 3.2.7 Where appropriate, and at the principal's discretion, an alert notice will be distributed to the school community when head lice has been detected at the school.

- 3.3 ***The school has a commitment to:***

- 3.3.1 Providing comprehensive advice and information about the use of safe treatment practices which do not place child/ren's health at risk;
- 3.3.2 Helping reduce stigma associated with head lice infection;
- 3.3.3 Maintaining confidentiality of the names of child/ren with head lice infection; and

3.3.4 Informing parents/guardians of child/ren in a class where head lice has been detected.

4. Further Information and Resources

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/Pages/headlice.aspx>

5. Evaluation

5.1 This policy will be reviewed every third year as part of the school's regular policy review cycle.