

LALOR EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL

HEAD LICE MANAGEMENT POLICY 2014

Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. 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. Management of head lice is a shared responsibility between the school, students and their parents, with specialist support of the City of Whittlesea Pediculosis nurses.

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 Guidelines

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
- offering a screening process
- alerting parents of lice when detected.

Parent, Guardian/Carer Responsibilities

- ensure that child(ren) do not attend school with head lice
- use of safe treatment practices which do not place their child's health at risk
- regularly (preferably once a week) inspect child's hair to look for lice or lice eggs
- regularly inspect all household members and treat them if necessary
- notify the school if their child is affected and advise school when treatment has started
- keep their child at home until appropriate treatment has commenced in line with Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009
- parents/carers of a child are to complete treatment notes and provide detailed information regarding the treatment to the school prior to the child returning to school.
- student's with hair below collar length are to have it tied back.

School Responsibilities

- responsibility to exclude a student found to have with live lice from school rests with the Principal
- distribution of information on detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of the year and more frequently as required
- relevant head lice information will be available to parents on request or when a child presents with head lice
- notices regarding the presence of head lice in a class will be forwarded to the parents of the affected class
- practical advice and an empathetic attitude so as to avoid stigmatising families who experience difficulty with control measures

- encouraging parents to continue to regularly check their child for head lice
- educating all staff about facts related to head lice so that they can carry out visual checks for head lice [no touching]
- encouraging children to learn about head lice
- annual visit from the City of Whittlesea Pediculosis Nurses to provide head lice examinations and education program
- distribution and collection of parent consent note to enable all students to have their hair checked at school.

Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

Approved School Council June 2014
Review Date June 2017