Head Lice Policy

Ratified by SAC October 2014

PURPOSE

Head lice cause concern and frustration for some parents, teachers and children. This school policy is intended to outline roles, responsibilities and expectations of the school community to assist with treating and controlling head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner.

Whilst parents have the main 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.


IMPLEMENTATION

It is the expectation of parents/carers and families attending this school that you will:

- Check your children’s hair for head lice weekly, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method.
- Notify the school if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced.
- Not allow your child to attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009).
- Regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary.
- Tie your child’s hair back if it is long.
- Treat head lice safely and as recommended.
- Notify the parents or carers of your child’s friends so they can check their children and treat if necessary.
- Maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising or blaming families who are finding it hard to control head lice.
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community around issues of head lice.

To support parents/carers and the broader school community to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management the school will:

- Distribute up to date and accurate information on the finding, treating and controlling head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of the year or more frequently if required.
- Include information about head lice management in orientation and transition programs for new families/staff attending the school.
- Include information and updates in school newsletters.
Provide practical information session on how to inspect heads for head lice provided annually by School Nurse.

Include annual head lice updates for staff in-service programs.

Provide practical advice and maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising or blaming families who are finding it hard to control head lice.

Access community educational resources and support, such as primary school nurses, community health centres and local government.

Follow the recommendations of the School Exclusion Policy of the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009 in that the responsibility to exclude a child from the school rests with the principal or person in charge.

Only exclude children from school with live insects.

Accept the advice of parents that appropriate treatment has commenced.

Encourage children to learn about head lice to help reduce stigma or bullying.

Be aware of real difficulties some parents may have and seek extra support if required.

Participate in a Head Lice Local Area Network to work with other schools, childcare centres, health services and pharmacists in your Local Government Area to achieve consistent management and policy.

In the case of a major outbreak, the school will implement head inspections with written permission from parents. To be conducted by pediculosis nurse from City of Whittlesea.

Review the head lice policy annually and seek endorsement from the School Council/community.

Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community around issues of head lice.

Seek opportunities to increase our collective understanding of and response to managing head lice.

EVALUATION
This policy is evaluated and reviewed as part of the School Improvement Plan.

References:

Attachments:
Treating and Controlling Head lice – Department of Education Victoria 2102
Head Lice Inspection Program Consent Form

In times of major outbreaks, a trained community nurse from the City of Whittlesea will visit the school to screen students' hair.

- Any person employed by the school to undertake head lice inspections will adhere to the school policy and latest Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009.
- Only the children whose parents/carers have given prior signed consent will be inspected.
- Confidentiality when conducting head lice inspections will be maintained.
- The community nurse check your child’s hair using the ‘Dry’ checking without conditioner method.
- There will be no toxic chemicals used and no treatment is undertaken at the school.

If you would like to include your child/ren in our screening program, please complete the permission slip below and return to the school.

For further details and information please feel free to contact the school.

Thank you

Geraldine Dalton

Principal

I give permission for my child/ren to participate in the head lice inspection at St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Catholic Parish Primary School.

Child: 
Home group:

Child: 
Home group:

Child: 
Home group:

Parent/guardian signature:
Parent/guardian name:
Date: