



HEAD LICE

POLICY



Rationale:

- Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. Probably between 2-3% of primary school children are infested at any one time. 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. 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:

- 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 screening process, and by alerting parents of lice when detected.
- The school principal will identify specific staff members to carry out head lice inspections (physical examinations) of students head and hair for the presence of head lice.
- The school administration staff will organise to have the Shire nurse come out once a term to inspect the children for head lice.
- All children inspected who are found to be infected will be provided with a confidential report from the Shire indicating to parents the results of the inspection, as well as advice on the latest information regarding head lice.
- Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, the Principal will ensure that the parents of any child found to have live lice are informed that their child is to be excluded from attending school until appropriate treatment has commenced.
- The Principal will also provide parents of children found to have live lice with information about head lice treatment and prevention.
- Upon their return to school, parents of excluded children will be requested to present a signed declaration indicating that appropriate treatment has commenced. All excluded children to undergo another inspection from our trained head lice inspectors upon returning.
- 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 infestations.

Resources:

- www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice

Evaluation:

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

This policy was last ratified by Wandin Yallock Primary School Council in **MAY 2017**