

# HEAD LICE

## POLICY BRUNSWICK EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL

### **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.
- Head lice do not carry or transmit disease, however, they are considered a significant nuisance.

### **Aims:**

- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- To ensure that an effective process for treating head lice is well known and consistently followed.
- To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice treatment.

### **Implementation:**

- Anyone can catch head lice.
- Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They spread from person to person by head to head contact
- 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 will organise to have volunteer parents and volunteer staff members trained by the Department of Human Services or the local council in the detection of head lice.
- The school will ask parents to sign a permission form allowing their children to be screened by our trained personnel for the presence of head lice. Only children whose parents have returned the permission form will be checked (see Form1 below).
- All children screened will be provided with a confidential report indicating to parents the results of the screening (see Form2 below), 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 must present the signed declaration on Form2 indicating that appropriate treatment has commenced. All excluded children to undergo another inspection from our trained personnel before recommencing school.
- 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 outbreaks.
- Information will be made available in the office foyer for all parents.
- An information flyer will be distributed to all parents on a yearly basis.
- Web site for further information: <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/phd/headlice/index.htm>

### **Evaluation:**

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

This policy was ratified by School Council on the **28th October, 2002**

**HEAD LICE INSPECTIONS – CONSENT FORM**

Throughout the year, the school will be arranging head lice inspections of students.

The management of head lice works best when all children are involved in our screening program.

The school is aware that this can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining student confidentiality and avoiding stigmatisation.

Trained staff or parents from our school will conduct the inspection of students.

The person conducting the inspections will physically search through each student’s hair to see if any lice or eggs are present. Moslem girls will only be inspected in the presence of women.

In cases where head lice are found, the person inspecting the student will inform the student’s class teacher and the principal. The school will send a written notice home with the child and provide parents with comprehensive advice about the use of safe treatment practices which do not place children’s health at risk.

Please note that the law requires that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until appropriate treatment has commenced.

Parent’s/Guardian’s Full Name: .....

Address: ..... Postcode: .....

Name(s) of Child/Children attending the school:

Year Level:

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

I hereby give my consent for the above-named children to participate in the school’s head lice inspection program for the remainder of this year.

Signature of Parent/Guardian ..... Date: .....

# HEAD LICE CHECK REPORT SHEET

Your child was checked today by our trained staff or parents at school for the presence of head lice.

The results of the check are:

- No lice or eggs detected.
- Dead eggs were found.
- Live eggs were found.
- Live lice were found.

Therefore the following action is required:-

- No action required.
- Child's hair must be treated with a method that has killed or removed live lice before the child is returned to school.

**Please Note:** All children who are found to have live eggs will be re-checked by trained staff or parents soon after returning to school to ensure the infestation has been effectively treated.

Regards

(insert name)  
Principal

.....

## HEAD LICE TREATMENT REPLY SLIP

**If your child has been detected with live lice, this reply slip must be returned to school at the same time that your child returns.**

- I have treated my child's head in a manner that has killed or removed the live lice.
- I would like to be shown how the Dept of Human Services recommends removal of eggs and lice using hair conditioner and a fine toothed comb.

Child's Name:..... Parent Signature:.....

Child's Class:.....