

HEAD LICE MANAGEMENT POLICY

2012

PURPOSE

TO BE RATIFIED

- To minimise the presence of head lice within the student community.
- To assist families in managing head lice through the distribution of up-to-date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents/guardians/staff at the beginning of every year and regularly throughout the year. Direct families to the website www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/
- To promote the understanding that all schools will have children with head lice at any given time.

GUIDELINES

1. A parent managed head lice program will be established according to the guidelines set out by DEECD.
2. Parent volunteers sign a Confidentiality Agreement to ensure privacy of information for children and their families.
3. Parents sign a consent form granting permission for their child/ren to participate in the program at enrolment.
4. When concerns are raised about the presence of head lice / nits, the Parent Management Team is informed so that head lice checks can be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.
5. In general, head lice checks occur on a class by class basis as the need arises. Often more than one class is checked on a given day, for example, all of the classes in the junior school.
6. When children are checked for head lice / nits they are given a form to take home informing parents that a check has been done in the child's class. The form also indicates whether or not head lice or nits are present, as well as some informative notes about head lice control.
7. Children with long hair will be encouraged to wear their hair tied back, preferably braided.
8. When children present with head lice, parents are contacted.
9. Children who have been identified must return a signed note indicating the treatment used and when it commenced.
10. Volunteer parents checking for head lice / nits take care to ensure the well-being of the children.

NOTE: The success of this program depends on all children being included. To this end all parents are encouraged to have their children participate in the program.