



Head Lice

Rationale

Head Lice have been around for many thousands of years. People get head lice from direct hair to hair contact with another person who has head lice. Best evidence at this time indicates between three and eleven percent of the school population has head lice at any given time. Head lice does not carry or transmit disease, but can create high stress levels, social stigmatisation with families and in school communities.

Purpose

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.

Guidelines

Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, our school community will work cooperatively and collaboratively to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

School's Responsibility

1. Inform parents of children with live insects.
2. At the conclusion of the school day, provide all children in that class with a note giving directions to access information on effective treatment methods to take home to inform parents.
3. Accept the advice of parents that appropriate treatment has commenced.
4. Provide practical advice, a range of resources (trained parent volunteers) and maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/headlice.aspx>

[X](#)

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/Pages/headlice.aspx>

Parental Responsibility

1. All students with long hair should be encouraged to attend school with hair tied back.
2. Parents/carers will notify the school if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced (in accordance with Health Infectious Disease Regulations 2001).
3. No student is to attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with Health Infectious Disease Regulations 2001).

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/health/Pages/headlice.aspx>

Purpose

School, families and local community working together to minimise and manage head lice infestation and the social stresses they can lead to.

Implementation

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

1. Children's hair will be checked for head lice on a weekly basis, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method.
2. All household members are regularly inspected and treated if necessary.
3. Use only safe and recommended practices to treat head lice.
4. Notify the school and the parents or carers of your child's friends so they have an early opportunity to detect and treat their children if necessary.
5. Maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures.

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

1. Distribute up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of the year (also to be included in the school information booklet) or more frequently if required.
2. Include information and updates in school newsletters.
3. Access community educational resources and support, such as primary school nurses, community health centres and local government.

Evaluation

- Review the head lice policy when required by DEECD or as part of our three year review cycle.
- Maintain regular contact with local health services to achieve consistent management and policy.

Bellbrae Primary School

50 School Road
Bellbrae, 3228
Victoria

(03) 5261 2660

bellbrae.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Program

Program ratified by
School Council

August 2014