



# SANDRINGHAM EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Head Lice Policy

### **Rationale:**

Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. 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.

While head lice do not carry or transmit disease, they can cause scalp irritation and scratching.

### **Aims:**

- To encourage a community (school and parent/guardian) approach to head lice control
- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively and mitigate against the spread of this affliction.
- 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:**

#### **Parent/Guardian Responsibilities**

- Regular inspections of their child/children's hair for lice/lice eggs (using conditioner and head lice comb is the most effective method)
- Regular inspection of all household members followed by treatment if headlice is detected
- Upon detection of headlice notify the school so that the students' class can be notified
- Commence appropriate headlice treatment for head lice if they are detected
- Follow up treatment as advised by current literature and research (e.g. perform a second head lice treatment)
- Upon their return to school, parents of excluded children must present to their classroom teacher the signed declaration indicating that appropriate treatment has been undertaken.

#### **School Responsibilities**

- Obtain consent for head lice inspections at the commencement of each school year.
- Regular checking of students' hair will be done throughout the year by parent volunteers.
- Consistent with Health and Wellbeing (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2009, the Principal will ensure that the parents of any child found to have eggs or lice are informed that their child is to be excluded from attending school until appropriate treatment has commenced
- The School will contact the parent of any student who continues to attend school without appropriate head lice treatment being commenced.
- If a signed form is not presented (copies of the form are available at the office) or other suitable confirmation of treatment commencement is obtained by the school, the child will remain excluded from school and will need to be collected promptly.
- The School 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.
- Information on head lice control and prevention will be available from the school should any parent request it at other times

- If head lice has been found on one or more students and if an adhoc check is not able to be performed due to a volunteer unavailability then the school will provide a note to the class that head lice has been found in that class to alert the parents/guardians to check their child/children

### **Head Lice Volunteer Responsibilities**

- Volunteer parents will be suitably trained to inspect for and identify head lice
- Volunteer parents will have or be working towards obtaining a Working with Children Check
- Head lice checks will be performed at least once per term
- Adhoc checks will occur if needed (and volunteers are available) if cases are identified outside the planned checks
- Maintain privacy and confidentiality of any student found to have headlice
- Give all students inspected an identical head lice inspection form noting what was found and information on current treatment and prevention
- All excluded children will undergo another inspection from trained head lice volunteers as soon as practicable upon recommencement of school.

### **References:**

- Ref: Circular 017/2005 – Head lice Management,
- Circular 152/2005 Headlice Management Toolkit Website
- Vic Health - [www.health.vic.gov.au](http://www.health.vic.gov.au)
- Vic Govt Schools Reference Guide  
<http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/schadmin/environment/4-5.pdf>

### **• Other websites**

#### ***Nitpickers***

[www.nitpickers.com.au](http://www.nitpickers.com.au)

#### ***James Cook University***

[www.jcu.edu.au/school/phtm/PHTM/hlice/hlinfo1.htm](http://www.jcu.edu.au/school/phtm/PHTM/hlice/hlinfo1.htm)

#### ***Infectious Diseases Epidemiology & Surveillance***

[ideas.health.vic.gov.au](http://ideas.health.vic.gov.au)

### **Evaluation:**

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

**This policy was ratified by School Council – October 2016**

**Appendix 1. Letter to teacher for head lice found.**



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**Head Lice Program - Teacher Notification**

Date:

Class:

Teacher:

Child's Name	Treatment form given to teacher	Treatment form given to student	Treatment form returned

- The students listed above have been found to have head lice
- These children require treatment before they can return to school
- Please ensure that each child on your list returns their signed form stating that they've started treatment on their return to school
- Please contact Leadership if you require any further assistance
- Please return this list and signed forms to the office when all students have returned their form

Thank you

The Head Lice team