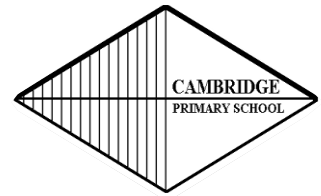


HEAD LICE



Purpose

Head lice continue to cause concern and frustration for some parents, teachers and children. This school policy is intended to outline Department of Education and Training roles, responsibilities and expectations of the school community to assist with treating and controlling head lice in a consistent, coordinated and sensitive manner.

Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice our school will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

This school policy draws on information obtained from the Information Pamphlet and Management Guidelines '*Scratching for Answers?*' a publication of the Department of Human Services.

Guidelines

- To outline the roles and responsibilities of the key players involved in the detection, treatment and control of head lice.
- To document effective management and treatment strategies that will contain the spread of head lice throughout the school.

Implementation

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

- Children's hair will be checked for head lice on a regular basis, at home using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method
- That your child does not attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with Health Infectious Diseases Regulations 2001)
- Regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary
- Parent/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)
- Children with long hair will attend school with hair tied back
- Use only safe and recommended practices to treat head lice
- Maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community especially around issues of head lice
- Sign a consent form allowing the school to regularly check for head lice when a report has been made.
- Where the parent does not give consent for the school to check for head lice they will be required to travel to school to undertake that check when notified by the school.

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

- 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 and more frequently if required
- Include information about head lice management in school publications such as the school's Information booklet and newsletter.
- Abide by the recommendations of the School Exclusion Policy of the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001 in that the responsibility of excluding a child from the school rests with the principal or person in charge and only exclude children from school with live insects.
- Notify parents in writing when there has been a report in their child's class.
- Accept the advice of parents that appropriate treatment has commenced
- Request that all families attending this school sign a consent form allowing the school to regularly check for head lice once parent notifications are made.
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with reported cases of head lice.
- Ensure that any person employed by the school or volunteering to undertake 'head lice inspections' is appropriately trained and will adhere to the school policy and latest Department of Human Services information and Health (Infectious /Diseases) Regulations 2001.
- Only inspect the heads of children whose parents have given prior consent

- Respect the wishes of parents/families who elect not to participate in a school head lice check by allowing them to come and inspect their own child's hair.
- Include teachers and school staff in inspection
- Use a generic/blanket consent form which parents sign when enrolling their child into the school
- Inspecting officers notify in writing the families of students inspected for head lice.
- Inspecting officers where not permitted to check a student's head for suspected head lice must contact the parent and ensure that they travel to school to undertake the inspection themselves.

Evaluation

This Head Lice Policy will be reviewed annually and in light of any changes to the Department of Human Services information and Health.

Rat/n. Date	Review Date	Policy No.	Version No.	Date Produced
May 2007	2012	51	2	Term 2 2005