



## Head Lice Policy

### **Purpose of this policy**

To minimise outbreaks of head lice.

### **Policy**

Schools must:

- develop an accurate and consistent policy to managing head lice, that is approved by the school council
- obtain informed written consent of parents/guardians prior to students being inspected for head lice
- exclude infected students until the day after treatment has commenced.

### **Parent/guardian consent**

A pro forma consent form is included on the enrolment form issued for each student:

- obtains parent/guardian consent to head lice inspections
- should be provided to parents for completion as part of enrolment
- must be updated when:
  - guardianship or custody arrangements change for the student
  - parents/guardians no longer wish to consent to inspections
- applies for the duration the child is at the school.

## Visual headlice checks

Head lice have been found in most schools, Checks for head lice occur via:

- visual checks without physical contact:
  - do not require parent/guardian consent
  - are made by people authorised by the principal, e.g. classroom teachers.
- head lice inspections involving the examination of a student:
  - require written parental consent, usually obtained at enrolment
  - are made by people authorised by the principal and school council e.g. school nurse or parent volunteer.

## Exclusion of students

Students identified with live head lice should be:

- provided with a note to take home to inform the parent/carer that their child may have head lice at the conclusion of the school day.
- excluded from school until the day after treatment has commenced, as set out in the *Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, School Exclusion Table*.

**Note 1:** Principal has the overall responsibility to exclude a student from school.

**Note 2:** The presence of eggs in the hair is not a cause for exclusion. There is no requirement for a general practitioner or local council to issue a clearance certificate in order for the child to return to school.

## Detection and treatment responsibilities

Responsibilities for managing head lice are shared between: parents/guardians, schools and principals.

Parents/guardians have primary responsibility for detection and treatment of head lice. Parents/guardians should:

- regularly, preferably once a week, check for lice or eggs in the hair of:
  - their child
  - all household members

- notify the school:
  - if their child is affected
  - when treatment commenced
- not send their children to school with untreated head lice.

**Schools must:**

- exercise sensitivity towards students and families with head lice
- maintain student confidentiality to avoid stigmatisation
- support and provide practical treatment advice to parents/guardians.

**Principals must:**

- alert parents/guardians of an infestation, particularly the parents of other students in the same class as the affected child/children
- use discretion about informing the school community about an infestation.

**Note:** The Department of Human Services indicates at any one time there are likely to be cases of head lice in most schools, so it is not advocated that the principal informs the whole school community each time head lice are detected.



## ***Head Life Notification***

Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers,

It has come to my attention that some students in the school may have head lice and I seek your cooperation in checking your child's hair this week.

Head lice do not transmit infectious diseases – they are transmitted by having head to head contact with someone who has head lice. You may be reassured to know that head lice are commonly found in places other than at Rowellyn Park Primary school. Head lice are common in school-aged children and are the most adaptable of creatures. They have survived living solely on humans for 10,000 years!!!!

### What can you do?

I seek your cooperation in checking your child's hair and in those instances where head lice or eggs are found, treating your child's hair.

Please see the attached pamphlet *Treating and Controlling Head Lice*, from the Department of Human Services. This pamphlet has informative guidelines regarding detecting and treating head lice and eggs.

### How do I treat my child for head lice?

The attached pamphlet (as noted above) has informative guidelines regarding detecting and treating head lice and eggs. The school also has additional information available regarding treatment and controlling head lice. Please don't hesitate to contact us on, 97820953 to obtain this information.

### If head lice or eggs are found on your child's hair you need to inform:

- the school and advise when the treatment has started, via the attached *Action Taken Form*.
- parents or carers of your child's friends so they too have the opportunity to detect and treat their children if necessary.

### When can my child return to school?

Health regulations requires that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until the day after appropriate treatment has started. Please note, this refers only to those children who have live head lice and does not refer to head lice eggs.

Rowellyn Park Primary School is aware that head lice can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining your confidentiality.

Kind regards.



Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

Head lice or eggs are suspected to have been detected on your child and it is very important for you to treat your child as soon as possible, using safe treatment practices. Please see the attached pamphlet, *Treating and Controlling Head Lice*, from the Department of Human Services. This pamphlet has informative guidelines regarding detecting and treating head lice and eggs.

It is very important for you to notify Rowellyn Park Primary School and to advise when appropriate treatment has commenced.

It is important to note, that health regulations require that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until the day after appropriate treatment has started. Please note that this refers only to those children who have live head lice and does not refer to head lice eggs.

Please complete the below form and provide this to the principal on the return of your child to school.



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**Action Taken – Student Head Lice  
Parent/Guardian/Carer Response Form**

To: The Principal, Rowellyn Park Primary School

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Student's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Year Level: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that my child should not attend school with untreated head lice.

I used the following recommended treatment for head lice or eggs for my child (insert name of treatment) \_\_\_\_\_.

Treatment commenced on (insert date) \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Signature of parent/carer/guardian: ..... Date.....