



HIGHVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headlice Policy

Ratified by School Council: May 2013

Review date: May 2016

Rationale:

Head lice (*pediculus*) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. Between 2-3% of primary school children are infested at any one time. While they do not carry or transmit disease, they are a cause of scalp itching and scratching, which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands. They therefore, they need to be controlled.

Aims:

- To treat head lice, and be pro-active with the parent managed head lice program.
- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- 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:

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 it is parents who have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children, the school will assist by offering up-to-date information, a pro-active screening process through the parent managed head lice program, and by alerting parents of lice when detected.

The school principal will ensure all volunteer parents, teachers and aides are provided with professional development regarding head lice, who will then be authorised to carry out checks of students' heads for head lice. These are physical examinations with touching of the students head and hair.

The school will ask parents to sign a permission form allowing their children to be inspected by our volunteer parents and aides for the presence of head lice. Only children whose parents have returned the permission form at the beginning of the school year will be inspected. However, all students may be visually checked. All children with head lice will be provided with a confidential report indicating to parents the results of the inspection, as well as advice on the latest treatment regarding head lice.

Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, the school will ensure that the parents of any child found to have live lice are informed that their child is to be excluded from attending school until appropriate treatment has commenced (see appendix A). The school will also provide parents of children found to have live lice with information about head lice treatment and prevention.

Upon their return to school, parents of excluded children must present the signed declaration on Appendix A indicating that appropriate treatment has commenced.

Children who are not permitted to be physically checked will receive a notification form (see Appendix B) and should be checked at home the same day of the head lice check at school.

The principal 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 any infestations.

Responsibility and Evaluation:

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

Appendix A

Parent-Managed Head Lice Program

Notification Form

Child's name: _____ Grade: _____

Today your child was screened by the volunteers of the Highvale Primary School Parent-managed head lice program and was found to have the following:

- Live lice
- Dead lice
- Louse eggs

Under the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, children found with live lice cannot be readmitted to school until appropriate treatment for lice has commenced.

Please treat your child appropriately by the following attached information sheet on "Management and treatment of head lice".

Please return the slip below when your child returns to school informing the office when treatment has occurred.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the school office for further advice. Thank you for partaking in this community approach to head lice control.

HIGHVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Parent-Managed Head Lice Program

Notification of Treatment

Child's name: _____ Grade: _____

My child was screened on ___/___/___ by Parent-managed head lice program and was

found to have lice and/or eggs.

I have treated my child with _____ and

he/she will be returning to school today.

_____/_____/_____
 Parents name Parents Signature Date

Appendix B

Parent-managed head lice program

HEAD LICE CHECK

Today, all the children (with permission forms) from Prep – Grade 6 were checked for head lice. If you filled in the form and didn't give permission to check your child or you didn't return the form can you please check your child for head lice today. This way, we are sure all the children are checked and the possibility of children contaminating each other will be minimised.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Thank you for partaking in this community approach to head lice control.

Committee of Parent Management Head Lice Program