



McKinnon Primary School

Head Lice Policy

1. Definition:

- 1.1. Head lice are tiny insects that feed on blood from the human scalp. An infestation of head lice, called pediculosis capitis, most often affects children and usually results from the direct transfer of lice from the hair of one person to the hair of another.

2. Rationale:

- 2.1. To support and provide consistent and practical advice on the management of head lice in partnership with parents/carers.

3. Aims:

- 3.1. To manage and ultimately reduce outbreaks of head lice at McKinnon Primary School.

4. Implementation:

4.1. The role of students is to:

- 4.1.1. Ensure that those with long hair i.e. shoulder-length and longer is tied back whilst at school.
- 4.1.2. Ensure the sharing of hats with other students does not occur.

4.2. The role of parents/carers is to:

- 4.2.1. Check their child's hair and household members for head lice on a regular basis.
- 4.2.2. In the case of an outbreak of head lice in their child's class, check their child's hair for head lice using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method.
- 4.2.3. Ensure that their child/ren does not attend school with untreated head lice (Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001).
- 4.2.4. Ensure that children with long hair i.e. shoulder-length and longer is tied back whilst at school.
- 4.2.5. Notify the school upon detection of head lice and advise when treatment has commenced.
- 4.2.6. Parents/carers refrain from sending their child/ren to school with untreated head lice. Child/ren 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.)
- 4.2.7. Use only safe and recommended practices to treat head lice.

4.3. The role of staff is to:

- 4.3.1. Distribute up-to-date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents/carers at the beginning of every year and throughout the year as required.
- 4.3.2. Distribute a letter of notification to parents/carers of those students who are found to have head lice or nits, with a detachable slip asking parents/carers to indicate the treatment used and when it commenced.
- 4.3.3. Be respectful of families experiencing difficulties with head lice and to maintain confidentiality.

5. Resources:

- Department of Education and Training School Policy and Advisory Guide Retrieved 4 August 2016, from <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/pages/headlice.aspx>
- Victorian Government Health Information Resources – Head Lice Retrieved 4 August 2016, from <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/head-lice>
- Pediculosis or head lice – Blue Book Retrieved 4 August 2016, from <http://ideas.health.vic.gov.au/bluebook/pediculosis.asp>
- Head Lice Management Toolkit Retrieved 4 August 2016, from <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/headlice.aspx>

6. Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.
Review Date: October 2019