



Head Lice Policy



Rationale:

Head lice infestation in humans has been a problem for thousands of years. Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. While they do not carry or transmit disease, they are the most common cause of head itch and scratching which may lead to infection, therefore they need to be eradicated.

At Footscray West Primary School we believe parents and carers hold the primary responsibility to detect and treat head lice.

Aims:

- To respond to the reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- To ensure that an effective process for treating head lice is well known and consistently followed.
- To ensure that parents and carers are well informed about head lice treatment.

Implementation:

The Role of Parents and Carers

Parents are required to:

1. Check their children's hair each week. (using conditioner can be helpful)
2. Ensure that the child does not attend school with untreated head lice.
3. Treat the hair using one of the recommended treatments.
4. Notify the class teacher if head lice are detected.
5. Return written confirmation that treatment has commenced.
6. Ensure that any child with hair longer than shoulder length has it tied back whilst at school.

The Role of the Classroom Teacher

1. To ensure that the office is notified immediately upon awareness that head lice have been detected.
2. Ensure that the letter to parents and carers notifying them of the presence of head lice is sent home on the same day.

The Role of The School

The responsibility to exclude a child from school rests with the Principal or their representative.

The school will:

1. Provide accurate and up to date information for parents on detection and treatment of head lice:
 - on enrolling their children
 - in newsletters
 - on website
 - as required
2. Obtain consent from parents for head lice inspections on enrollment.
3. Provide 'Action Taken' letter to parents of students with live lice to be signed and returned.
4. Inform parents and carers by letter when head lice are reported in a particular grade.
5. Encourage students to learn about head lice so as to help remove any stigma or 'bullying' associated with the issue.

Evaluation:

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

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

April 2014

Supporting Documents:

Parent pamphlet – Treating and controlling head lice

Notification letters to parents

DEECD Website: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/health/Pages/headlice.aspx>

Department of Health Website www.healthvic.gov.au/headlice/

