

Marlborough Primary School

School Policies Manual



HEAD LICE POLICY

Rationale:

Head lice are tiny insects which live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. They are the most common cause of head itch and scratching which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands, and therefore need to be eradicated.

Implementation:

1. Most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time.
2. Teachers suspecting that a student has head lice are to report their concerns to the Principal.
3. If head lice are suspected, the Principal will ensure that the parents or guardians are contacted as soon as possible and informed that their child is to be excluded from attending school in accordance with the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001 until the child has been treated and a signed form (attached) has been returned to the school.
4. Children's hair will be checked for head lice on a weekly basis at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method.
5. Children with long hair will attend school with hair tied back.
6. If lice or eggs are found, the student's hair must be treated by a parent or guardian.
7. Parents 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).
8. Parents or guardians should be aware that one treatment is not sufficient to manage the problem. If a student re-attends school with live head lice the school will exclude the student until the live insects have been removed.
9. The student may return to school the day after treatment provided there are no live lice present. A child with head lice can be treated one evening and return to school the next day.
10. The Principal will provide a letter to parents/guardians of the students in the unit informing them of an outbreak, without identifying the students involved.
11. The Principal will provide parents of infected students with information about head lice treatment and prevention.
12. The Principal will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice appears in the school newsletter periodically, particularly in times of heavy outbreaks.

13. The Principal will ensure that any person employed by the school, or volunteering to undertake 'head lice inspections' will adhere to the school policy and latest Department of Human Services information and Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001.

Refer also to the Parent Managed Head Lice Program supported by the school.

References:

Additional information is available for Department of Human Service, Public Health Division at www.dhs.vic.gov.au/phd/headlice/index.htm .This site contains the pamphlet 'Scratching for answers?' which provides up to date advice on finding and treating headlice.

Evaluation:

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

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Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

Your child is suspected to have Head lice or eggs 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 the 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 Mrs O'Hare (Principal), on the return of your child to school.



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

To: Mrs O'Hare,

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

_____.

Treatment commenced on ___/___/___

Signature of parent/carer:

Date: