



## **HEAD LICE MANAGEMENT**

### **Rationale**

- Responsibilities for managing head lice are shared between parents/guardians, schools and Principals.
- Schools must develop an accurate and consistent policy to managing head lice that is approved by the School Council.
- The written consent of parents/guardians prior to students being inspected for head lice must be obtained.
- Infected students must be excluded until the day after treatment has commenced.
- Head lice is not an infectious disease but an infestation.
- The Department of Health & Human Services has indicated that 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.

### **Purpose**

- To minimise outbreaks of head lice.
- To ensure Hillsmeade Primary School complies with DET policy and the requirements of the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001.

### **Implementation**

- Parents/guardians have primary responsibility for detection and treatment of head lice and must notify the school if their child is affected and when treatment commenced.
- Parents must not send their children to school with untreated head lice.
- A pro forma consent form that obtains parent/guardian consent to head lice inspections will be provided to parent/guardians for completion as part of enrolment
- The consent form will be updated when guardianship or custody arrangements change for the student or parents/guardians no longer wish to consent to inspections.
- It will apply for the duration of the child's enrolment at the school.
- Head lice inspections without physical contact do not require parental consent and will be made by people authorised by the Principal e.g. classroom teachers.
- Head lice inspections involving the examination of a student require written consent and will be made by people authorised by the Principal and School Council e.g. school nurse or parent volunteer.
- Students identified with live head lice will be provided with a note to take home to inform the parent/ guardian that their child may have head lice at the conclusion of the school day.
- Such students will be excluded from school until the day after treatment has commenced as set out in the Health (infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, School Exclusion Table.
- The Principal has overall responsibility to exclude a student from school.
- Parents/guardians through school Newsletters or other communications will be encouraged regularly and preferably once a week, to check for lice or eggs in the hair of all household members and notify the school if their child is affected, when treatment commenced.
- Students identified with live head lice will be provided with a note to take home to inform the parent/guardian that their child may have head lice at the conclusion of the school day.
- Such students will be excluded from school until the day after treatment has commenced as set out in the Health (infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, School Exclusion Table.
- Parents/guardians through school Newsletters or other communications will be encouraged regularly and preferably once a week, to check for lice or eggs in the hair of all household members and notify the school if their child is affected, when treatment commenced.
- The school will exercise sensitivity towards students and families with head lice, maintain student confidentiality to avoid stigmatization and support and provide practical treatment advice to parents/guardians.

- For information and support, the school will utilise the Head Lice Management Toolkit which supports the development of school policy and contains the circulars below:
  - 010/2003 Head Lice, providing possible content for the school policy
  - 017/2005 Head Lice Management, providing a pro forma consent form for parents/guardians to consent to head lice inspections.

**Evaluation**

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle or if guidelines change (latest update late May 2016).

An earlier update was ratified by School Council in November 2015

This update was ratified by School Council in .....

Reference:

[www.education.vic/gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/pages/headlice.aspx](http://www.education.vic/gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/pages/headlice.aspx)