

Bundoora Primary School Policy Manual	MANAGEMENT POLICY Head Lice	Last ratified by School Council in: June 2017
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If further information is required, please refer to the DET Guidelines.

1.0 VISION

- 1.1 To minimise outbreaks and infestation of head lice.
- 1.2 To provide an educational environment which recognises, values and builds student wellbeing.
- 1.3 To develop students who are physically and emotionally healthy.
- 1.4 To ensure that parents and carers are well informed about head lice treatment.

2.0 ACTION

- 2.1 The school will obtain the informed written consent of parents/carers prior to students being inspected for head lice. A proforma consent form obtains parent/carer consent to head lice inspections for their child/ren and should be provided to parents/carers for completion as part of enrolment. It must be updated when guardianship or custody arrangements change for the child or parents/carers no longer wish to consent to inspections. This consent will apply for the duration that the child is at the school. Head lice have been found in most schools. Checks for head lice which occur via visual checks, without physical contact, do not require parent/carer consent.
- 2.2 Students identified with live head lice will be excluded from school until the day after treatment has commenced, as set out in *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009, Schedule 7: Minimum period of exclusion from primary schools and children's services centres for infectious diseases cases and contacts*
 Note 1: Principal has the overall responsibility to exclude a student from school.
 Note 2: The presence of eggs in the hair is not a cause for exclusion. There is no requirement for a general practitioner or local council to issue a clearance certificate in order for the child to return to school. Parents/carers should regularly, preferably once a week, check for lice or eggs in the hair of their child/ren and all household members. They should notify the school if their child is affected and when treatment commenced and should not send their child/ren to school with untreated head lice.
- 2.3 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 heavy outbreaks. Schools must support and provide practical treatment advice to parents/carers.
- 2.4 Checks for head lice involving the physical examination of a student require written parent/carer consent and are carried out by people authorized by the Principal and school council e.g. a school nurse or selected parent volunteer.
- 2.5 At the conclusion of the school day, students identified with live head lice will be provided with a note to take home to inform parents/carers that their child may have head lice.
- 2.6 Parents/carers have primary responsibility for reporting, detection and treatment of head lice.
- 2.7 All students with hair longer than their shoulders are required to have it tied back at all times and contained (not free flowing) at all times to prevent the infestation or the spread of head lice.
- 2.8 Staff reserve the right to respectfully require students to tie their own hair back when hair is longer than the agreed shoulder length. (Younger students may require assistance.)
- 2.9 Schools must exercise sensitivity towards students and families with head lice and maintain student confidentiality to avoid stigmatization.
- 2.10 Principals must alert parents/carers of an infestation, particularly the parents/carers of other students in the same class as the affected child/ren.
- 2.11 Principals must use discretion in regard to informing the school community about an infestation.

- 2.12 Note: The Department of Human Services indicates 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.
- 2.13 To assist in the spreading of head lice students are discouraged from sharing hats. Parents should also ensure hats are labelled for easy identification and washed regularly.

3.0 REVIEW

The *Head Lice Policy* will be reviewed regularly, as part of the school's policy review process.