

HEADLICE POLICY

RATIONALE:

Head lice do not transmit infectious diseases- they are transmitted through head to head contact with someone who has head lice, or on items such as hats. Head lice, although irritating, do not spread infectious disease. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to detect and treat head lice. The role of the school is in the management of head lice infections and to provide support for parents/guardians and students.

GOALS:

- 1.1 To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively
- 1.2 To promote the identification and control of head lice at school to reduce the occurrence of infestation.
- 1.3 To ensure that an effective process for treating head lice is well known and consistently followed.
- 1.4 To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice treatment.

IMPLEMENTATION:

1. The nomination of head lice resource/support personnel who have been appropriately trained.
2. To provide parents/guardians with comprehensive advice about the use of safe treatment practices which do not place students at risk?
3. Obtain parental consent to conduct head lice checks upon the enrolment of a child to cover the duration of their schooling at Mount Evelyn.
4. Teachers or staff members suspecting that a child has head lice are to report their concerns to the School Administration who will organise the authorised persons to carry out the necessary inspections.
5. Upon positive identification of head lice, the School Administration will provide a letter to inform parents 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. Children will not be excluded from school until the end of the school day but will be separated within the classroom.
6. A child with head lice can be treated one evening and returned to school the next day even if there are some eggs present. Upon return to school, each excluded child will be required to provide a note stating that the head lice have been treated.
7. If head lice have been detected or reported a note requesting parents to check their child's/children's hair will be sent home with all students from that class.
8. Provision of classroom activities to give students an understanding of the habits and life cycle of head lice in order to minimise the incidence and stigmatisation of particular students and families..

9. 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.

EVALUATION:

This policy will be reviewed as part of a three year cycle in **2014**. School Council will be responsible for the ratification of the policy.

The policy was last ratified by School Council in **June 2011**