

# HEAD LICE

## LEOPOLD PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY

### Rationale:

- 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 a cause of head itch and scratching, which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands and therefore, they need to be controlled.

### Aims:

- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- To ensure effective processes for treating head lice are well known and consistently followed.
- To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice and their treatment.

### Implementation:

- Anyone can catch head lice. Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They spread from person to person by head to head contact, and may also be spread by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and hats.
- While it is parents who have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children, the school will assist by offering up-to-date information, by offering a screening process, and by alerting parents of lice when detected.
- The school principal will ensure all teachers and aides are provided with professional development regarding head lice, who will then be authorised to carry out visual checks of students' heads for head lice (observations without touching of the students head or hair). The principal will also identify specific staff members to carry out head lice inspections (physical examinations) of students' head and hair for the presence of head lice.
- The school will ask parents to sign a permission form allowing their children to be inspected by our specific staff members for the presence of head lice. Only children whose parents have signed the permission section on the enrolment form will be inspected, however, all students may still be visually checked.
- A confidential report indicating to parents the results of the inspection (see Reporting to Parents form below) will be issued to students having eggs and lice as well as advice on the latest information regarding head lice. Parents of students without head lice or eggs will receive notification of a head check occurring in the grade to support communication within the school community. (see Notification to Parents form)
- Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, the principal will ensure that the parents of any child found to have live lice are informed that their child is to be excluded from school until appropriate treatment has commenced. Such children will not be sent home during the school day, but will be dismissed as usual. Lice eggs are not grounds for exclusion.
- The principal will also provide parents of children found to have live lice with information about head lice treatment and prevention.
- Upon their return to school, parents of excluded children are to present the signed declaration indicating that appropriate treatment has commenced. All excluded children to undergo another inspection from our trained head lice inspectors upon recommencement of school.
- The principal will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice is available at the school.

### Evaluation:

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

Signed: School Council President – Alison Woodard \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: School Council Executive Officer (Principal) – Jan Rollinson \_\_\_\_\_

This policy was last ratified by School Council in:

18/06/2013

This policy was last ratified by School Council on:

19/06/2018

# SCHOOLHEAD LICE INSPECTIONS

## HEAD LICE CHECK REPORT SHEET

Your child was checked today ( ) by trained staff for the presence of head lice. This was a:

- Visual Check (observation without physical contact)
- Inspection (physical search of the child's head and hair)

The results of the check are:

- Dead eggs were found.
- Live eggs were found.
- Live lice were found.

Therefore the following action is required:-

- Remove dead eggs and continue to monitor the situation, checking your child's hair on a regular basis.
- Child's hair must be treated with a method that has killed or removed live lice before the child returns to school.

**Please Note:** All children who are found to have live eggs will be re-checked by trained staff soon after returning to school to ensure the infestation has been effectively treated.

Regards

Jan Rollinson  
Principal

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### HEAD LICE TREATMENT REPLY SLIP FOR LIVE LICE

**If your child has been detected with live lice, this reply slip must be returned to school at the same time that your child returns.**

- I have treated my child's head in a manner that has killed or removed the live lice.
- I would like to be shown how the Dept of Human Services recommends removal of eggs and lice using hair conditioner and a fine toothed comb.

Child's Name:..... Parent Signature:.....

Notification to Parents form

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We have recently had a number of reports from parents contacting the school office about instances of head lice. As a result of this, our school First Aid Officer, Siobhan Gill has conducted a head lice check in your child's grade.

Although no evidence of head lice was found in your child's hair, could you please continue to monitor the situation and check your child's hair on a regular basis?

Thank you

***Cheryl Hair***  
Assistant Principal