

**Karingal Heights Primary School**

**HEAD LICE POLICY 2020**

# **Rationale**

Karingal Heights Primary School acknowledges that, while parents have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, school also have a role in the management of head lice infections and in providing support for parents and students.

**Aims**

* To minimise the anxiety associated with head lice by acknowledging that most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time.
* To establish and maintain a management plan for the control of head lice in the school.
* To ensure that the school community is kept informed.
* To minimise the incidence of stigmatisation of particular students and families.

**Implementation**

* The school makes a commitment to distribute up-to-date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of every year and more frequently if required. (available from website <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/>).
* The school requires that parents refrain from sending their children to school with untreated head lice. (It should be noted that students may be treated one evening and return to school the next day and that the presence of eggs in the hair is not cause for exclusion).
* The Principal is the nominated contact person in the school in regards to head lice and can be contacted during school hours.
* If a child is suspected of having head lice they may be sent to the Principal or First Aid to have this verified via a visual check.
* No teacher, parent helper or school volunteer will examine a child’s hair.
* The school has written procedures that are distributed to staff and made available to parents, on the steps to be taken should live head lice or eggs be detected in a child’s hair. (NB the presence of eggs is not cause for exclusion.) These include:-
  + Notifying parents /guardians by letter or phone if live lice are detected.
  + A requirement that parents treat their child’s hair and notify the school before the child returns to the classroom.
* In the case of an inspection program by City Council personnel, a trained nurse or other trained persons, the school will ensure that clear protocols are followed including:-
* Obtaining written permission from parents for inspections.
* The school makes a commitment to keep the school community informed when there is an unusually high incidence of head lice in the school.
* Classroom activities may be provided to give students an understanding of the habits and life-cycle of head lice in order to minimise the incidence of stigmatisation of particular students and families

**Suggestions for families**

* Regularly (preferably once per week) inspect the hair of your child/children for lice or lice eggs (using conditioner and a head lice comb is the most effective method)
* Regularly inspect of all household members followed by treatment if head lice are detected
* Upon detection of head lice, notify the school and advise when treatment has commenced.

**Evaluation**

This policy was presented to school council in June, 2020 and will be reviewed in June, 2023.

**References**

[Head lice Resources](https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/head-lice/resources)