

Seaholme Primary School Headlice Policy

BASIC BELIEFS

Headlice (pediculous) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. Evidence suggests that most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time.

Whilst parents/guardians have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, Seaholme Primary school schools has a role in the management of head lice infections and in providing support for parents/guardians and students.

AIMS

- To have an effective management plan in the detection and control of headlice
- To respond to reports of headlice quickly and effectively
- To ensure that an effective process for treating headlice is well known and consistently followed
- To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice treatment.

IMPLEMENTATION

The school has a commitment to distribute up-to-date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents/guardians 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 will nominate of a head lice resource/support person/s (staff member) who parents/guardians can contact at the school at nominated times

The school will train a number of appropriate school personnel (school support staff) in detection and management of head lice at the school level.

It is a requirement that parents/guardians 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. Parents/guardians need to be aware that one treatment is not sufficient to manage the problem. If a student re-attends school with live head lice the school may again exclude the student until the live insects have been removed.)

The school will establish clear protocols for any inspection program that the school wishes to implement, including a pro forma for obtaining written parental permission for all inspections including those by local government personnel

Headlice inspections for all students in the school will be conducted in the first weeks of each school term. Inspections will be conducted for individual grades if there has been a notification of headlice within the grade by a parent or if a teacher has visually identified headlice or eggs in the hair of students within their grade.

Parents/guardians will be provided with comprehensive advice about the use of safe treatment practices which do not place students' health at risk

The school has a commitment to help reduce stigma and maintain confidentiality following head lice inspections, e.g. it is recommended that notification be given to all students involved in inspections, not just those found to have head lice.

There will be a provision of classroom activities 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

Parental Advice re Headlice

Advice to parents/guardians includes the following procedures:

Regular (preferably once per week) inspection of their child/children's hair for lice or lice eggs (using conditioner and a head lice comb is the most effective method)

Regular inspection 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 is to reviewed as part of the 3 year review cycle

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

August 2007