POLICY TITLE: Head Lice Policy

DATE RATIFIED: 2013

REVIEW DATE: 2016

RATIONALE

Head lice continues to cause concern and frustration for some parents/guardians/carers, teachers and children. Head lice do not infectious diseases—they are transmitted by giving head to head contact with someone who head lice. Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice. Essendon North Primary School (ENPS) believes that the safety and wellbeing of students is a community wide responsibility. It is a joint obligation of the school and parents/carers.

ENPS is committed to:

- Distributing policies and information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice parents/guardians/carers and staff and having accessible clear protocols for the inspection program for the school implements.
- Obtaining written parental consent to conduct head lice inspections, upon the enrolment of a student to cover the duration of their schooling.
- Encouraging parents/guardians/carers to continue to regularly (preferably once per week) check their child for head lice and providing a sympathetic attitude and practical advice to those parents experiencing difficulty with the control measures.
- Being aware that there is no requirement in the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001 for a child treated for head lice to obtain a clearance certificate to be issued either by a general practitioner or a municipal council, on return to school.

PURPOSE

The aim of this policy is to:

- The minimisation of anxiety by acknowledging that most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time.
- A commitment to help reduce stigma and maintain confidentiality following head lice inspections.
- Provide a letter to be given to all students involved in inspections, not just those found to have head lice.
- It outlines the responsibilities of both the school and the parent/guardian/carer.
- Importance of an all inclusive health approach, to ensure an appropriate and efficient solution to the problem of head lice.

PARENTS/GUARDIAN/CARER – responsibilities include:

- Regularly (preferably once a week) inspecting their child’s hair to look for lice or lice eggs.
- Ensuring their child does not attend school with untreated head lice,
- Using safe treatment practices which do not place their child’s health at risk.
- Notifying the school if their child is affected.
IMPLEMENTATION

A comprehensive management plan that incorporate 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 more frequently if required.

Treating head lice involves removing

TREATING HEAD LICE

Treating head lice involves removing lice and eggs from the hair. There are this can be done:

1. Buying and using a head lice lotion or shampoo, following the instructions on the product.
2. Using the conditioner and comb method (described under ‘finding head lice’)
3. Buying and using a head lice lotion or shampoo, following the instructions on the product
4. Using the conditioner and comb method (described under finding head lice’) every second day until there have been no live lice found for ten days.

If you choose to use a head lice product always read and follow the instructions provided with the product carefully.

The following points may also be helpful:

- Head lice products must be applied to all parts of the hair and scalp.
- No treatment kills all of the eggs so treatment must involve two applications, seven days apart. The first treatment kills all lice; the second treatment kills the lice that may have hatched from eggs not killed by the first treatment.
- Cover the person’s eyes while the treatment is being applied. A towel is a good way to do this.
- If you are using a lotion, apply the product to dry hair.
- If you are using a shampoo, wet the hair, but use the least amount of water possible.
- Apply the treatment near the scalp, using an ordinary comb to cover the hair from root to tip. Repeat this several times until all the hair is covered.

A pro forma letter of notification to parents/guardians of those students found to have head lice, which could incorporate a detachable slip at the bottom, asking parents/guardians to indicate the treatment used and when it commenced.

The head lice policy will be reviewed in 2016.
Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers,

It has come to my attention that some students in the school may have head lice and I seek your cooperation in checking your child’s hair this week __/__/__ to__/__/__.

Head lice do not transmit infectious diseases – they are transmitted by having head to head contact with someone who has head lice. You may be reassured to know that head lice are commonly found in places other than at Essendon North Primary School Head lice are common in school-aged children and are the most adaptable of creatures. They have survived living solely on humans for 10,000 years!!!!

**What can you do?**

I seek your cooperation in checking your child’s hair and in those instances where head lice or eggs are found, treating your child’s hair.

Please see the attached pamphlet *Treating and Controlling Head Lice*, from the Department of Human Services. This pamphlet has informative guidelines regarding detecting and treating head lice and eggs.

**How do I treat my child for head lice?**

The attached pamphlet (as noted above) has informative guidelines regarding detecting and treating head lice and eggs. The school also has additional information available regarding treatment and controlling head lice. Please don’t hesitate to contact the school on, to obtain this information.

**If head lice or eggs are found on your child’s hair you need to inform:**

- The school and advise when the treatment has started, via the attached *Action Taken Form*.

- Parents or carers of your child’s friends so they too have the opportunity to detect and treat their children if necessary.

**When can my child return to school?**

Health regulations requires that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until the day after appropriate treatment has started. Please note, this refers only to those children who have live head lice and does not refer to head lice eggs.

Essendon North Primary School is aware that head lice can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining your confidentiality.

Kind regards

Mr Scott Mullen

Principal
Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

Head lice or eggs are suspected to have been detected on your child and it is very important for you to treat your child as soon as possible, using safe treatment practices. Please see the attached pamphlet, *Treating and Controlling Head Lice*, from the Department of Human Services. This pamphlet has informative guidelines regarding detecting and treating head lice and eggs.

It is very important for you to notify Essendon North Primary School and to advise when appropriate treatment has commenced.

It is important to note, that health regulations require that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until the day after appropriate treatment has started. Please note that this refers only to those children who have live head lice and does not refer to head lice eggs.

Please complete the below form return it back to school.

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**Action Taken – Student Head Lice**

**Parent/Guardian/Carer Response Form**

To the office, **CONFIDENTIAL**

Student’s Full Name: _____________________________ Year Level: ______

I understand that my child should not attend school with untreated head lice.

I used the following recommended treatment for head lice or eggs for my child

______________________________________________________________.

Treatment commenced on (insert date) ___/___/___

Signature of parent/carer/guardian: ………………………….. Date………………..