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## **HEAD LICE POLICY**

### **1. PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS**

Essex Heights PS acknowledges that parents have primary responsibility for detection and treatment of head lice infections. Our school also has an important role in the management of head lice infections and in providing support for parents and students and does this consistent with Department of Education and Training policy, as expressed in the School Policy and Advisory Guide.

Most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time. In order to minimise any stigma attached to the contraction of head lice, confidentiality following inspections will be observed as an inclusive practice for all students. Essex Heights PS follows a comprehensive management plan for the detection and treatment of head lice.

### **2. GUIDELINES**

#### **2.1. PERMISSION / DOCUMENTATION**

- 2.1.1 Visual checks will be carried out for all students from time to time. Families will be asked to complete a permission form allowing a physical head lice check which is valid for the duration of the student's enrolment.
- 2.1.2 Records of checks will be maintained and communicated in a confidential manner.
- 2.1.3 If it is suspected or found out through a visual check or parent notification that a student has head lice, a letter will be sent home to all class members indicating this and requesting parents check their child's hair. The child's privacy will be maintained.

#### **2.2 RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 2.2.1 Parents have primary responsibility for detection and treatment of head lice infections.
- 2.2.2 If head lice or nits are found at home, it is expected that the school will be informed as early as possible.
- 2.2.3 The school will provide parents with information on the detection, treatment and management of head lice.
- 2.2.4 The school will advocate the use of safe treatment practices which place the child at the least possible risk.
- 2.2.5 Parents of children with head lice will be asked not to send their child back to school until the first application of their chosen treatment has taken place.

## **2.3 CHECKING PROCESS**

- 2.3.1 Head lice checks will be undertaken by staff members directly responsible for head lice management in the school e.g. First Aid Officer.
- 2.3.2 Physical inspections will be carried out using clean disposable gloves for each child only if permission has been obtained as per 1.1.1.
- 2.3.3 On completion of the check, all students in the class will receive a sealed letter indicating the presence, or lack of, head lice or eggs in their hair. This letter will include a tick box indicating whether head lice are present in the class.
- 2.3.4 Parents will not be required to collect their child from school early on the day that head lice are found, however if appropriate treatment is not commenced exclusion may apply.

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Principal

School Council President