



Head Lice Management POLICY STRATHAIRD PRIMARY SCHOOL May 2018

Rationale:

Most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time and while parents have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, schools also have a role in the management of head lice infections and in providing support for parents and students.

Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice our school community will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

Implementation:

- The school First Aid Coordinator will coordinate the program.

It is the expectation of parents/carers and families attending this school that:

- Children's hair will be checked for head lice on a weekly basis, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method;
- That your child does not attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with Health Infectious Diseases Regulations 2001);
- Regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary;
- Parents/Carers will notify the school if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced (in accordance with Health Infectious Disease Regulations 2001);
- Children with long hair will attend school with hair tied back;
- Use only safe and recommended practices to treat head lice;
- Notify the parents or carers of your child's friends so they have an early opportunity to detect and treat their children if necessary;
- Maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures;
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community especially around issues of head lice.

To support parents/carers and the broader school community to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management the school will undertake to:

- Distribute up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of the year or more frequently if required;
- Include information about head lice management in orientation and transition programs for new families/staff attending the school;
- Include information and updates in school newsletters;
- Provide practical advice and maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures;

- Access community educational resources and support, such as primary school nurses, community health centres and local government;
- Abide by the recommendations of the School Exclusion Policy of the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001 in that the responsibility to exclude a child from the school rests with the principal or person in charge, and
- Only exclude children from school with live insects;
- Accept the advice of parents that appropriate treatment has commenced;
- Encourage children to learn about head lice so as to help remove any stigma or ‘bullying’ associated with the issue;
- Familiarize families with this policy.
- Be aware of real difficulties some parents may encounter and seek extra support if required;
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community especially around issues of Head Lice;
- Continue to seek opportunities to increase our collective understanding of and response to managing head lice;
- Ensure that persons employed by the school, or volunteering, to undertake ‘head lice inspections’ will adhere to the school policy and latest Department of Human Services information and Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001;
- Only inspect the heads of children whose parents have given prior consent;
- Develop a generic/blanket consent form which parents sign (*Attachment 1*);
- Respect the wishes of parents/families who elect not to participate in a school head lice check;
- To help reduce the stigma and maintain confidentiality when conducting head lice inspections a letter should be given to all the children involved;
- Include teachers and school staff in inspection;
- Employ / arrange for suitably qualified persons trained in the detection of head lice to perform inspections;
- To provide a notice to parents to indicate that an inspection has occurred and to provide an indication of the results of this inspection (*Attachment 2*);
- Make available and distribute as required up-to-date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff;
- Contact the parent when live lice are detected, and exclude the child from school until treatment has been completed and a Head Lice Treatment Form has been signed and returned by the parent. (*Attachment 2*). The presence of eggs in the hair is not cause for exclusion. Parents need to be aware that one treatment may not be sufficient to manage the problem. If a child re-attends school with live lice the school will again exclude the child until the live insects have been removed.
- Notify the first aid coordinator, when a staff member suspects the presence of head lice, and if the child is included in the program, inspect the child.
In situations where the child is not included in the program the parent is contacted and informed of the possible presence of head lice. (In obvious cases the parent is notified and child excluded from school);

- Notify parents of all children in a grade where Head Lice are detected, by distributing a notice (*Attachment 3*), and requesting that they inspect their child's hair. Where the presence of lice in the school or specific grades appears widespread, the whole school or specific grades will be inspected (where permission has been provided), by the trained persons;
- The school may make available for borrowing, effective head lice combs.

Evaluation:

- Positive responses to related questions on the Parent and Teacher Questionnaires - Environment.
- Number of children included in the program.
- Policy reviewed as part of 4 year cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on Tuesday 15th May, 2018

Julie Kennedy
Principal

Chris Johnstone
School Council President



CONSENT FORM TO CONDUCT HEAD LICE INSPECTIONS

Permission to cover the duration of the student's schooling at:

Strathaird Primary School

Throughout your child's schooling, the school will be arranging head lice inspections of students.

The management of head lice infection works best when all children are involved in our screening program.

The school is aware that this can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining student confidentiality and avoiding stigmatisation.

The inspections of students will be conducted by a trained person approved by the principal and school council.

Before any inspections are conducted the person conducting the inspections will explain to all students what is being done and why and it will be emphasised to students that the presence of head lice in their hair does not mean that their hair is less clean or well-kept than anyone else's. It will also be pointed out that head lice can be itchy and annoying and if you know you have got them, you can do something about it.

The person conducting the inspections will check through each student's hair to see if any lice or eggs are present.

People authorised by the school principal may also visually check your child's hair for the presence of head lice, when it is suspected that head lice may be present. They do not physically touch the child's head during a visual check.

In cases where head lice are found, the person inspecting the student will inform the student's teacher and the principal. The school will make appropriate contact with the parents/guardians/carers.

Please note that health regulations requires that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until appropriate treatment has commenced. The school may request the completion of an 'action taken form', which requires parents/guardians/carers to nominate if and when the treatment has started.

Name of Child Attending the School:.....

Parent's/guardian's/carer's full name:

Parent's/guardian's/carer's full name:

Address:..... Post code:.....

I hereby give my consent for the above named child to participate in the school's head lice inspection program for the duration of their schooling at this school.

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

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

Please inform the school if guardianship/custody changes for your child, as this form will need to be re-signed to reflect these changes. Please also inform the school in writing if you no longer wish to provide consent for the school to undertake head lice inspections for your child.



Strathaird Primary School
Head Lice Management Program

PARENT NOTIFICATION

Child's Name:

Today your child was screened by a trained person and was found to have the following:

- Live lice
- Dead lice
- Louse eggs
- No evidence of lice or eggs found

Under the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, children found with live lice cannot be readmitted to school until appropriate treatment for lice has commenced.

Please treat your child appropriately by following the attached information on the Scratching for Answers brochure. Please return the slip below when your child returns to school informing the principal when treatment has occurred.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Thank you for partaking in this community approach to head lice control.

First Aid Officer



Strathaird Primary School
Head Lice Management Program
NOTIFICATION OF TREATMENT

Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____

My child was screened on: ___/___/20__ and was found to have live lice and/or eggs.

I have treated my child with _____

_____ and they will be returning to school today.

Parent's Name (please print) Parent Signature ___/___/20__
Date

It has come to our attention that some students in your child's grade may have head lice and we seek your cooperation in checking your child's hair.

Head lice 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 Strathaird Primary School.



What can you do?

We seek your co-operation in checking your child's hair and in those instances where head lice or eggs are found, treating your child's hair.

FOUR EASY STEPS TO GET RID OF HEADLICE

STEP ONE

Smother hair with conditioner. Cheap Conditioner will do the job. **Hair must be dry when starting this.** Detangle with a wide tooth comb.

STEP TWO

Using a steel lice comb, comb through sections of hair immediately after you have applied conditioner, dipping the lice comb in hot water or wipe on a tissue to clean.

STEP THREE

Repeat at least 4 or 5 times on each section of hair or until there is no evidence of lice or eggs remains

STEP FOUR

Repeat every 2 days for up to 10 days or until there is no evidence of head lice remains.

THINGS YOU ALSO NEED TO KNOW

- Each family member needs to be checked and treated if they have head lice
- Only pillowcases need to be laundered– use very hot water or hot clothes dryer setting
- Head lice survive on human blood only. They have been known to survive off a person's head for 6-24 hours.

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 treatment has started and no live lice found. Please note, this refers only to those children who have live head lice and does not refer to head lice eggs.

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

Any further questions or queries on how to treat head lice, please call 9705 3800.

School Administration Team