



Head Lice

Purpose	To minimise outbreaks of head lice
Policy	<p>Schools must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain informed written consent of parents/guardians prior to students being inspected for head lice • Exclude infected students until the day after treatment has commenced.
Parent / guardian consent	<p>Parent are provided with a parent/guardian consent to head lice inspections as part of enrolment. It applies for the duration the child is at the school.</p> <p>This is updated when</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guardianship or custody arrangements change for the student • Parents/guardians no longer wish to consent to inspection
Visual head lice checks	<p>Head lice have been found in most schools. Checks for head lice occur via:</p> <p>Visual checks without physical contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not require parent/guardian consent • Are made by people authorised by the principal, e.g. classroom teachers. <p>Head lice inspections involving the examination of a student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require written parental consent, usually obtained at enrolment • Are made by people authorised by the principal and school council e.g. school nurse or parent volunteer.
Exclusion of students	<p>Students identified with live head lice should be: Provided with a note to take home to inform the parent/carer that their child may have head lice at the conclusion of the school day. Excluded from school until the day after treatment has commenced, as set out in the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, School Exclusion Table.</p> <p>The Principal has the overall responsibility to exclude a student from school.</p>
Detection and treatment responsibility	<p>Responsibilities for managing head lice are shared between: parents/guardians and schools. Parents/guardians have primary responsibility for detection and treatment of head lice.</p> <p>Parents/guardians should: Regularly, preferably once a week, check for lice or eggs in the hair of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - their child - all household members • notify the school: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if their child is affected - when treatment commenced • not send their children to school with untreated head lice. <p>Schools must:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exercise sensitivity towards students and families with head lice - Maintain student confidentiality to avoid stigmatisation - Support and provide practical treatment advice to parents/guardians. <p>Principals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alert parents/guardians of an infestation, particularly the parents of other students in the same class as the affected child/children - Use discretion about informing the school community about an infestation. <p>Note: The Department of Human Services indicates at any one time there are likely to be cases of head lice in most schools, so it is <u>not advocated</u> that the principal informs the whole school community <u>each time</u> head lice are detected.</p> <p>The school when required will notify families of the presence of head lice in an area of the school via COMPSS.</p>
Review cycle	This policy was last updated on 20/8/18 and is scheduled for review in August 2020