

HEAD LICE POLICY

RATIONALE:

To develop a comprehensive management plan that incorporates an accurate, consistent approach to the management of head lice infections. While parents/caregivers 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/caregivers and students.

AIMS:

- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and efficiently and to ensure that an effective process for treating head lice is well known and consistently followed
- To minimise outbreaks of head lice.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- The School community will be regularly informed of outbreaks of head lice.
- While it is parents/caregivers who have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children, the school will assist by offering up to date information, a screening process, and by alerting parents/caregivers of lice when detected.
- The school will organise to have at least one staff member trained in the detection of head lice.
- Parents/Caregivers are asked to give consent, through the school enrolment form, to allowing their children to be examined/screened by trained personnel for the presence of head lice. This consent applies for the duration the child is at Findon Primary School. Only children whose parents/caregivers have given consent will be checked.
- Head lice Inspections/examinations are made by people authorised by the Principal and trained in head lice screening such as a school nurse.
- Visual Checks WITHOUT physical contact DO NOT require parent/caregiver consent and are made by people authorised by the Principal e.g. classroom teachers.
- When a classroom teacher notices head lice or a parent informs the school of head lice a notice "Head lice Alert" is sent home asking parents/caregivers to check their child's hair and a classroom check is arranged as soon as possible.
- All children screened will be provided with a report indicating to parents/caregivers the results of the screening, as well as advice on the latest head lice information. A commitment to help reduce stigma and maintain confidentiality will be part of the process.
- Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001 and the Department of Health Services (DHS) Head lice Management Guidelines, the Principal will ensure that the parents/caregivers of any child found to have live lice are informed that their child is to be excluded from attending school until evidence is provided of appropriate treatment having been applied. Upon their return to school, parents/caregivers of excluded children must declare, that appropriate treatment has commenced and produce appropriate evidence.
- The Principal or nominee will also provide parents/caregivers of children found to have live lice with information about head lice treatment and prevention.
- The Principal will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice appears throughout the year in the School Newsletter, particularly at times of heavy outbreaks.
- Parents/Caregivers will be encouraged to regularly check their children for head lice and notify the school if head lice or eggs are detected.
- Parents/Caregivers of children who have not given permission for head lice checks, will be informed and requested to check their child's hair.

EVALUATION: This policy shall be reviewed as part of the ongoing policy and process review.

REFERENCES:

DET – School Policy & Advisory Guide

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/pages/headlice.aspx>

Health.vic

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/searchresults?q=head%20lice>

Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001 and the DHS Headlice Management Guidelines

[http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/Domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/PubStatbook.nsf/93eb987ebadd283dca256e92000e4069/40be3961273d5cb7ca256e5b0021aa36/\\$FILE/01-041sr.pdf](http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/Domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/PubStatbook.nsf/93eb987ebadd283dca256e92000e4069/40be3961273d5cb7ca256e5b0021aa36/$FILE/01-041sr.pdf)

Enrolment Form with reference to Head Lice Check

Findon Head Lice proformas (Head Lice Detection sheet, Information sheet, Screening sheet)