

HEAD LICE

NARANGA SCHOOL POLICY

Rationale:

- Head lice can cause concern and frustration for parents, teachers and children. This school policy is intended to outline roles, responsibilities and expectations of the school community to assist with the treating and controlling of head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner.

Aims:

- Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice our school community will work to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.
- This school policy draws on the information Pamphlet and Management Guidelines 'Scratching for Answers?' from the Department of Human Services.

Implementation:

The school expects parents /carers and families of children attending this school to:

- Check children's hair for head lice on a regular basis, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method
- Treat detected head lice or eggs (nit) prior to attending school.
- Notify the school if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment commenced. (in accordance with Health Infectious Disease Regulations 2001)
- Notify 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 to avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulties 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 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 in school newsletters.
- Provide practical advice.
- Access community educational resources and support, as needed.
- Send a letter in an envelope to go home informing parents that head lice have been sighted and in accordance with Victorian Government Health Information site, the children will not be excluded from school. Encourage children to learn about head lice.
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community around the issues of head lice.
- Maintain a sympathetic attitude to avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulties with control measures.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

July 2014



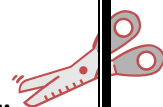
Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

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 Naranga 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 and provide this to First Aid Officer on the return of your child to school.



**Action Taken – Student Head Lice
Parent/Guardian/Carer Response Form**

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.....

CONSENT FORM TO CONDUCT HEAD LICE INSPECTIONS

Permission to cover the duration of the student’s schooling at Naranga 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.

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

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

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

Name of child attending the school:.....

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.