

# Head Lice Policy

## Brighton Primary School

### 1542

#### Rationale

Head lice management is complex as infections can be difficult to manage and control in a school setting. The responsibility for detecting and treating head lice rests with the parents/carers. However, schools can assist with controlling and preventing head lice.

Anyone can have head lice. Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They spread from person to person by head to head contact, and by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and head gear such as hats.

#### Purpose

- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- To ensure that an effective process for treating head lice is well known and consistently followed.
- To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice treatment.
- To reduce the spread of head lice.

#### Implementation

- At the time of enrolment, the school will organise for parental consent to head lice checks. This will remain in effect throughout the student's primary schooling years.
- Teachers or staff members suspecting that a child has head lice, are to report their concerns to the School Nurse.
- Parent consent must be checked before the student's hair is to be physically inspected.
- The School Nurse, or a First Aid trained staff member, will check the reported student for head lice.
- Upon positive identification of head lice, the School Nurse will ensure that a parent of the infected child is contacted as soon as possible.
- The student will be excluded from attending school, in accordance with the Victorian Health Regulations. Refer to the health.vic website: [School Exclusion Table](#).
- The student will be sent home for initial treatment and must be kept away from school until this initial treatment is administered.
- Treatment requires two applications; the second treatment must be repeated after one week.
- The School Nurse will inform the parents of the grade affected that there has been an incident of head lice and the treatment necessary for eradication. This is in the form of a generic letter.
- Information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice will be provided throughout the year in the school newsletter.

Please refer to <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/head-lice/policy> for more information.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in November 2020

To be reviewed in 2024