



HEADLICE POLICY

1. BACKGROUND

Head lice continue to cause concern and frustration for some parents/guardians/carers, teachers and children. Head lice do not transmit infectious diseases – they are transmitted by having head to head contact with someone who has head lice. Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, the control and management of head lice infections is a shared responsibility amongst a number of agencies, including the Department of Health and Human Services, schools and parents.

The Department of Education is responsible for providing advice and support to schools regarding head lice management. Apollo Bay P-12 College is committed to managing head lice in a sensitive and confidential manner.

2. PURPOSE & AIMS

- To define the role of the school and home in the treatment of head lice by stating the responsibilities of both the school and the parent/guardian/carer and the importance of an all-inclusive health approach, to ensure an appropriate and efficient solution to the problem of head lice.
- 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.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

- Anyone can catch 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.

Parent/Guardian/Carer

- Regularly (preferably once a week) inspecting their child's hair to look for lice or lice eggs and regularly inspecting all household members and then treating them if necessary
- Ensuring their child does not attend school with untreated head lice
- Using safe treatment and effective treatment practices
- Notifying the school if their child is affected and advising the school when treatment has started.

School

- Distributing policies and information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents/guardians/carers and staff and having accessible clear protocols for the inspection program that the school implements
- Upon enrolling your child, the school will ask parents to sign a permission form allowing their children to be screened when deemed necessary by our trained personnel for the presence of head lice. Only children whose parents have returned the permission form will be checked.
- When a child has been screened for lice, parents will be notified where live lice exist and advice on the latest information regarding treatment will be supplied.

- Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, the principal will ensure that the parents of any child found to have live lice are informed that their child is to be excluded from attending school until appropriate treatment has commenced and no live lice are detected.
- 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.
- Encouraging students to learn about head lice so as to help remove any stigma or 'bullying' associated with the issue.
- Upon their return to school, parents of excluded children must present the signed "Return to School Certificate" indicating that treatment has occurred.
- Students in the Junior School especially should always wear long hair tied back to assist in preventing head lice outbreaks across the College.

4. EVALUATION

This Policy will be reviewed as part of the College's three year review Cycle.

DEFINITIONS: NA

REFERENCES: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/head-lice>

DATE RATIFIED: Term 1 2017

DATE FOR REVIEW: Term 1 2020

Tiffany Holt

Andrew Gardiner

Principal

College Council president

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RETURN TO SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

Your child _____ today (insert date:.....) has been detected with (circle) eggs/ live lice. Please complete this reply slip and send to the office when your child returns to school after treatment.

I have treated my child's hair in the following way _____

I confirm I have removed all eggs/live lice and my child is ready to return to school.

Child's Name:.....

Homegroup:.....

Parent Signature:.....

Date:.....