

Head Lice Policy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact the office on 9560 6371 or glen.waverley.south.ps@education.vic.gov.au

RATIONALE

Most schools will have students with head lice at any given time. Whilst parents have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, the school also has a role in the management of head lice infections and in providing support to parents/guardians and students.

This Policy has been developed based on the Department of Education's '[Head Lice Policy](#)' and guidance.

AIMS

To educate and advise parents/guardians regarding the control, detection and treatment of head lice.

IMPLEMENTATION

The school will follow a comprehensive management plan that incorporates the following:

- The school will distribute up-to-date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to staff and parents at the beginning of each year and more frequently if required.
- A member of staff will be nominated as a head lice resource/support person who parents/guardians can contact at the school.
- Head lice inspections are made by people authorised by the principal and school council.
- It is a requirement that parents refrain from sending their children to school with untreated head lice.
- Students may be treated one evening and return to school the next day. The presence of eggs in the hair is not cause for exclusion. If a child re-attends school with live lice the school may again exclude the child until the live insects have been removed.
- Parents/guardians need to be aware that one treatment is not sufficient to manage the problem.
- The school will provide parents with comprehensive advice about the use of safe treatment practices which do not place the children's health at risk.
- Classroom teachers will provide classroom activities to give students an understanding of the habits and life-cycle of head lice in order to minimise the incidence of stigmatisation of particular students and families.
- The school will obtain written parents' permission for all physical inspections by designated school staff.
- A pro-forma letter of notification will be sent to parents of those students found to have head lice.
- The school is committed to reducing stigma and maintaining confidentiality following head lice inspections.
- To control the incidence of head lice, parents are advised to follow these procedures:
- Regularly inspect (preferably once a week) child/ren's hair for lice or lice eggs (using conditioner and a head lice comb is the most effective method).
- Regular inspection of all household members followed by treatment if head lice are detected.
- Upon detection of head lice, notify the school and advise when treatment has commenced.

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EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle, and at times when our emergency management procedures are under review.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- The Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL): [Head Lice Policy](#)
- Better Health Channel: [Head Lice \(nits\)](#)
- Department of Health: Health.vic: [Head Lice](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	November 2025
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	November 2028