



Warrnambool West
Primary School

GREAT SCHOOL | GREAT COMMUNITY | GREAT FUTURE

Contact us:

Hoddle St, Warrnambool
Victoria 3280, Australia

Phone: 03 5561 3161

HEAD LICE

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

POLICY STATEMENT

Head lice are an ongoing concern for school communities. Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, the school also shares a role in the control and management of infections, providing support for parents and students. It must be acknowledged there may be students with head lice at any given time throughout the year.

Purpose:

- To create a well informed school community confident in its ability to manage head lice
- To outline the roles and responsibilities of the school community in the detection, treatment and control of head lice
- To provide information on the head lice issue
- To invite and encourage parent participation and co-operation

IMPLEMENTATION

- Distribution to all parents and school staff of up-to-date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice. The following website may also be accessed
 - www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/
- A school support person for parents to contact in cases of head lice infection. Unless advised otherwise this will be the Principal
- A requirement that parents immediately notify the school of any head lice infections, with a guarantee that treatment has commenced
- A requirement that parents do not send children to school with untreated head lice
- Students with head lice may be treated one evening and return to school the next day but parents must be aware that one treatment is not sufficient to manage the problem

Protocol for School Inspection Program

If the school deems it necessary for an inspection program to be undertaken, parental permission is required.

- Parents are requested to sign a consent form at the beginning of each year
- The school will enlist assistance from a trained person to assist any such inspection
- A pro-forma letter of notification to parents of students found to have head lice will be sent home, with detachable slip asking for indication of treatment used and when commenced. This will be followed up with a re-treatment letter
- All children inspected will receive the pro-forma, to minimise any stigma and to maintain confidentiality

Suggestions for Parent Action

- Regular inspection of child/children's hair for lice or lice eggs
 - Using conditioner and head lice comb is the most effective method

- Regular inspection of all household members followed by treatment if head lice are detected
- Notification to school of any head lice detection and that treatment has commenced

Further Information

- Provide training to school appointed inspection personnel
- Lotion is available from chemists
- Pamphlet – Scratching for Answers – distributed to all families

EVALUATION

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

Date: 16/03/2015	Responsibility: School Council	Review Date: March 2018
------------------	--------------------------------	-------------------------