

HEAD LICE POLICY

Mitcham Primary School

RATIONALE

Head lice affect approximately a quarter of a million children in Australia and New Zealand each year. Undetected and untreated head lice cases may cause the head lice to spread to other students. The school is aware that this can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining student confidentiality and avoiding stigmatisation.

AIMS

Mitcham Primary school acknowledges while parents have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, schools also have a role in management in head lice infections and in support for parents and students. This head lice policy is in-line with DEECD guidelines and focuses on the management of head lice infestations at the school and the support for families involved.

- To educate our school community about head lice and head lice treatment.
- To reduce the number of students at Mitcham Primary School exposed to head lice.
- To implement preventative measures to monitor and reduce the incidence of head lice in the school community.

GUIDELINES

- The Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, state that when children are identified as having Head Lice they must be excluded from school until appropriate treatment has commenced and that children may return to school after treatment. Upon detection of head lice, parents must notify the school and advise when treatment has commenced.
- A requirement at Mitcham Primary School is that parents refrain from sending their children to school with untreated head lice. The presence of eggs in the hair is not cause for exclusion. One treatment is not sufficient to manage the problem and if a child re-attends school with live lice the school may again exclude the child until the live insects have been removed.
- Upon observation of a case or cases of head lice, or having been informed of such cases by parents, teachers will report this to the Principal or Assistant Principal.
- The Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, state that local government nurses, environment health officers and medical officers of health do not have authority to examine students for head lice without parental permission.
- If a case of head lice occurs, parents of all students in that class will be informed in writing and cooperation is requested.

RESOURCES

- DEET- Headlice Public Information (<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/head-lice>)

EVALUATION

This policy was last updated on June 2018 and is scheduled for review in June 2020.

Ratified by school council on the: 11th September 2018