

Albert Park Primary School

HEAD LICE

POLICY

Rationale:

Whilst parents have the main responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, our school community will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

Aim:

- To control outbreaks and minimise the impact of head lice in the school.

Implementation:

Parents /carers are responsible for the detection and treatment of head lice. To facilitate this families will:

- Check your children's hair for head lice weekly, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method.
- Not allow your child to attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009).
- Regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary.
- Tie your child's hair back if it is long.
- Notify the school if you find lice so they can check others in the class.
- Maintain a respectful, sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising or blaming families who are finding it hard to control head lice.

A.P.P.S. will undertake a head lice inspection program and will:

- Maintain and distribute up to date information on detecting and treating head lice to parents and staff through newsletters and the website.
- On enrollment, provide all parents with information on the management of head lice and ask them to sign an agreement accepting the conditions of the school's head lice policy.
- Ensure that the nurse undertaking head lice inspections adheres to the school policy and Department of Education and Training information.
- Respect the wishes of parents/families who elect not to participate in a school head lice check. However, these parents will be requested to undertake a home check when class head checks have occurred.
- Give a letter to all children involved in head lice inspections to help reduce the stigma and maintain confidentiality.
- When live lice are detected, contact parents/ carers by phone or email and send a letter home excluding the child from school until they have been treated. Notify all other families in that class that live insects have been found.
- Accept the advice of parents that appropriate treatment has commenced.
- Be aware of real difficulties faced by some families, provide practical advice and seek extra support as required.

Evaluation:

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

Program Leader: Elaine Mills	Issued in Newsletter: <u>10/6/2016</u>
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This policy was last ratified by School Council in....	<u>6/6/2016</u>
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Relevant documents/links:

Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/publications/factsheets/Public%20Health%20and%20Wellbeing%20Regulations%202009>

Head lice: Scratching for Answers?

https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/getfile/?sc_itemid=%7bE5770E5D-591C-4BCF-90EB-287CF5B0973D%7d&title=Head%20lice%3A%20Scratching%20for%20answers%20-%20Frequently%20asked%20questions

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/headlice.aspx>

http://albertparkps.vic.edu.au/index.php/more-info/documents/doc_download/539-treating-and-controlling-headlice