

### HEAD LICE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Head lice are present in every community. Although they will never be fully eradicated, outbreaks can be managed in a coordinated manner to prevent head lice from spreading. Identification of children with head lice is essential to prevent person to person spread of head lice.

The Principal may authorise a member of staff to examine the head of any student to ascertain whether head lice are present. The School nurse is also authorised to undertake examination. With written consent from parents/caregivers, a parent may be nominated to assist in checking for head lice. If written consent is not given the Principal will instruct a staff member to carry out the examination.

If a student is found to have head lice the following procedures will be put into place:

- The child's parents/caregivers will be informed to ascertain if they are available to pick up the child and administer treatment.
- If parents/caregivers are not contactable, the child may be given tasks that do not involve close group work in school. The Principal does have the discretion to withdraw the student from class.
- Parents/caregivers of all students in the class will be advised via a note home with a request to treat their child for head lice, explaining that if all students in the class are treated for a full cycle of a head lice's life cycle, there is a greater chance of eradication.
- Parents will be advised that head lice elimination requires at least 10 days of follow up treatment with daily removal of head lice.
- Reminder notes may be sent home if deemed necessary.
- Parents will be provided with sources of information regarding head lice e.g. Health Department web site [www.health.gov.au/headlice](http://www.health.gov.au/headlice)
- Encourage parents to notify teachers if their child has contracted nits out of school.

Under the School Education Act 1999, a principal may exclude a child with head lice from school until treatment has commenced. The Department of Health recommends exclusion at the end of the school day. The child may return to school when all live lice have been removed. A few remaining eggs are not a reason for continued exclusion. However, the parent must continue treatment until all eggs and hatchlings have been removed, usually over the following ten days.