

## HEAD LICE

### PHILOSOPHY

Mount Waverley North Primary School acknowledges that parents/guardians/carers have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice. *Pediculosis* is **not a notifiable condition** and head lice **do not transmit any infectious diseases**. Head lice are transmitted by having head to head contact with someone who has head lice and this happens frequently in families and schools. We also believe that the school has a role in the management of head lice infections, to avoid the spread of the infection and in providing support for parents/guardians/carers and students.

### PURPOSE

- To acknowledge that there is the likelihood that some students in our school community will have head lice at any given time.
- To implement a comprehensive head lice management plan to deal with this situation and reduce anxiety in the school community.

### IMPLEMENTATION

- Up- to- date information on the detection, safe treatment practices and control of head lice to parents/guardians and staff will be provided at the beginning of every year and more frequently if required. Information provided : <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/>
- While head lice are not considered an agent for infectious disease they are included on the school exclusion table. The exclusion criteria for head lice should be interpreted as: once parents/guardians/carers have been informed that the child has head lice, children may return to school after treatment has commenced. Parents/guardians/carers need to be aware that one treatment is not sufficient to manage the problem. If a student re-attends school with live head lice the school may again exclude the student until the live insects have been removed.
- Parents/guardians/carers are encouraged to check their Child's hair should be checked for head lice on a weekly basis, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method.
- Parents/guardians/carers are encouraged to notify the school in the event that they have detected head lice in their child and advise when treatment has commenced.
- When the school has been notified that a student has head lice a letter from the school will be sent to families with students in that year level informing them of the problem.
- The school will provide practical advice on the control of head lice, maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures.
- The school will encourage students to learn about head lice so as to help remove any stigma or 'bullying' associated with the issue.

<b>Policy Approved by:</b>	Education Committee – School Council
<b>Effective Date:</b>	June 2016
<b>Review by Date:</b>	June 2019