

HEAD LICE POLICY

February 2013

Policy Statement

Head lice infestation affects people of any age, nationality, gender or socio-economic status. Head lice do not pose any serious health risk, but they can be difficult to manage. Schools have a responsibility to minimise risks to school community members of being infected while at school, and parents have a responsibility for prevention, detection and treatment of head lice among their own children.

Guidelines

1 The School

- 1.1 The school will inform parents at the beginning of each year about our procedures and information on prevention, detection and treatment of head lice. This will emphasise the need for parents to be vigilant.
- 1.2 The school will instruct teachers to inform the school office immediately of any reported incidences of head lice in their classrooms.
- 1.3 Teachers will minimise any opportunities for head to head contact during outbreaks of head lice.
- 1.4 The school will support and encourage parents appropriately through practical advice and a sympathetic attitude to avoid stigmatising families
- 1.5 Parents will be requested not to send children with head lice to school until the day after treatment has commenced.

2 The Parents

- 2.1 Parents will regularly inspect their children's scalp and hair to detect the presence of head lice and eggs.
- 2.2 Parents will inspect all household members and treat if required.
- 2.3 Parents will notify the school if their child is affected and advise when treatment has begun.

3 Procedure for notification

- 3.1 Parents notify the class teacher or school office that their child has head lice and they have commenced treatment
- 3.2 A note is sent to all children in that class to inform parents that head lice are present and request them to check their child's hair and treat if necessary.
- 3.3 Parents sign the note and return to show they have checked the hair.
- 3.4 Teachers checklist to ensure all notes have been returned and notify the office of unreturned notes.
- 3.5 A second, more urgent note is sent to families who did not return first note.
- 3.6 If second note is not returned, school office or Principal will contact the family and request that they check the child's hair.

Legislative or other Authority

Nil

Related Policy Documents

Brisbane Catholic Education OH&S Fact Sheet 'Head Lice in Schools'

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