

HEAD LICE

MARAMBA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Rationale:

- Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. Probably between 2-3% of primary school children are infested at any one time.* While they do not carry or transmit disease, they are a cause of head itch and scratching, which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands; therefore, they need to be controlled.

Aims:

- To respond to reports of headlice quickly and effectively.
- To ensure effective processes for treating head lice are well known and consistently followed.
- To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice and their treatment.

Implementation:

- Anyone can catch head lice. Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They spread from person to person by head to head contact, and may also be spread by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and hats.
- While it is parents who have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children, the school will assist by offering up-to-date information, and by alerting parents when lice are detected.
- The school will ask parents to sign a permission form allowing their child/children to be inspected by our specific trained staff members for the presence of head lice. Only children whose parents have returned the permission form will be inspected. However, all students may be visually checked.
- The principal, or principal's nominee, who have been trained by nurses from the Environmental Health Section of Baw Baw Shire Council, will carry out head lice inspections (physical & visual examinations) of students suspected of having an infestation. Once an infestation has been confirmed, the rest of the grade will be checked for the presence of head lice.
- Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, the principal will ensure that the parents of any child found to have live lice are informed that their child has to be treated. A note will be sent home to all students in the grade, so parents are aware and can check their child's hair on a regular basis. Any students away on the day, will be checked the following day and a follow up check on the class will be done 1 week later.
- The principal will also provide parents of children found to have live lice, with information about treatment and prevention.
- The principal will ensure that information regarding the prevention and eradication of head lice appears throughout the year in the school newsletter, particularly at times of heavy infestations.

EVALUATION:

PLEASE NOTE: All students may be visually checked (no touching) for head lice by staff members irrespective of whether or not this consent form for a physical inspection is completed and returned.

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

This policy was last ratified by School Council in...

March 20, 2013

HEAD LICE INSPECTIONS – CONSENT FORM

Head lice are common amongst children, and remain the parent's responsibility to manage. In support of parents, the school may head lice inspections of students throughout the year.

The management of head lice works best when all children are involved in our inspection program.

The school is aware that this can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining student confidentiality and avoiding potential embarrassment.

Before any inspections are conducted staff will explain to all students what is being done and why, and it will be emphasised to students that the presence of head lice in their hair does not mean that their hair is less clean or well kept than anyone else's. It will also be pointed out that head lice can be itchy and annoying and if you know you have got them, you can do something about it.

Trained staff from our school will conduct the inspection of students.

The person conducting the inspections will physically search through each student's hair to see if any lice or eggs are present. Moslem girls will only be inspected in the presence of women.

In cases where head lice are found, the person inspecting the student will inform the student's class teacher and the principal. The school will send a written notice home with the child and provide parents with comprehensive advice about the use of safe treatment practices which do not place children's health at risk.

Please note that health regulations require that where a child has head lice, that child is not return to school until appropriate treatment has commenced.

Parent's/Guardian's Full Name:

Address: Postcode:

Name(s) of Child/Children attending the school:

Year Level:

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I hereby give my consent for the above-named children to participate in the school's head lice inspection program for the remainder of this year.

Signature of Parent/Guardian Date:

HEAD LICE CHECK REPORT SHEET

Your child was checked today by trained staff at school for the presence of head lice. This was a:

- Visual Check (observation without physical contact)
- Inspection (physical search of the child's head and hair)

The results of the check are:

- Eggs were found.
- Lice were found

Therefore the following action is required:-

- Child's hair must be treated with a method that has killed or removed live lice before the child is returned to school.

Please Note: All children who are found to have live eggs will be re-checked by trained staff soon after returning to school to ensure the infestation has been effectively treated.

Regards

Andrew Groh
Principal

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HEAD LICE TREATMENT REPLY SLIP

If your child has been detected with live lice, this reply slip must be returned to school at the same time that your child returns.

- I have treated my child's head in a manner that has killed or removed the live lice.

Child's Name:..... Parent Signature:.....