



## HEAD LICE MANAGEMENT POLICY

### Rationale

- Responsibilities for managing head lice are shared between parents/guardians, schools and Principals.
- Parents/guardians have primary responsibility for detection and treatment of head lice.
- Schools must develop an accurate and consistent policy to managing head lice that is approved by the School Council.
- The written consent of parents/guardians prior to students being inspected for head lice must be obtained.
- Infected students must be excluded until the day after treatment has commenced.
- Head lice is not an infectious disease but an infestation.

### Purpose

- To minimise outbreaks of head lice.
- To ensure Newport Lakes Primary School complies with DET policy and the requirements of the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001.

### Implementation

- A pro forma consent form that obtains parent/guardian consent to head lice inspections will be provided to parent/guardians for completion as part of enrolment  
The consent form will be updated when guardianship or custody arrangements change for the student or parents/guardians no longer wish to consent to inspections.
- It will apply for the duration of the child's enrolment at the school.
- Head lice checks without physical contact do not require parental consent.
- Students identified with live head lice will be provided with a note to take home to inform the parent/guardian that their child may have head lice at the conclusion of the school day.
- Such students will be excluded from school until the day after treatment has commenced as set out in the Health (infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, School Exclusion Table.
- Parents/guardians through school Newsletters or other communications will be encouraged regularly and preferably once a week, to check for lice or eggs in the hair of all household members and notify the school if their child is affected, when treatment commenced.
- They must not send their children to school with untreated head lice.
- The school will alert parents/guardians of an infestation, particularly the parents of other students in the same class as the affected child/children but will use discretion about informing the school community about an infestation.
- The school will exercise sensitivity towards students and families with head lice, maintain student confidentiality to avoid stigmatization and support and provide practical treatment advice to parents/guardians.

### Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle or if guidelines change (latest update early September 2014).

This policy was ratified by School Council on June 2016