

Donvale Primary School

POLICY STATEMENT FOR HEAD LICE CONTROL

1. GENERAL

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 the most common cause of head itch and scratching which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands; therefore, they need to be eradicated.

Donvale Primary School recognises that while parent/guardians have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, it also has a role to play in the management of head lice infections and in providing support for parents/guardians and students.

2. OUTCOMES

- 2.1 There will be a low incidence of head lice at Donvale Primary School.
- 2.2 Reports of head lice are responded to quickly and effectively.
- 2.3 An effective process for treating head lice is well known and consistently followed.
- 2.4 Parents and guardians are well informed about head lice treatment

3. IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 The Clients

This policy includes all students, staff and parents of Donvale Primary School.

3.2 Key Processes

- The school will distribute up-to-date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents/guardians and staff at the beginning of every year and more frequently if required. This information will be distributed to new families to the school.
- Parents/guardians must not send their children to school with untreated head lice. Students may return to school when the hair has been treated although one treatment may not be sufficient to manage the problem.
- A student with live head lice will be excluded from school until the live insects are removed.
- Hair inspections may be conducted by council nurses or qualified personnel and written parental permission will be sought for all hair inspections.
- A letter will be sent to parents who have not signed the consent form, informing them that a head lice inspection has taken place at school and requesting that they check their child's hair.
- A standard letter will be given to parents/guardians following head inspections notifying them of the results (whether there were eggs or live lice).
- After inspection, parents of students with live lice will be notified and required to collect their child as soon as practicable.
- The principal will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice appears throughout the year in the school newsletter, particularly at times of heavy outbreaks.

3.3 Key Documents

Refer to Department and Education circular 010/2003 for guidelines.
Ref: SOTF Reference Guide - 4.5.8.2 Head lice Control;
*Dept of Human Services (Disease Control Section)

3.4 Data Collection

A confidential database will be maintained in the office indicating the students who have written permission of parents for inspections and the results of school inspections.

4. REVIEW

This policy is to be reviewed if there are concerns about the policy's implementation or there are changes to the Department of Education's policy.

Policy Passed: October '06