

HEAD LICE POLICY

RATIONALE

Kingswood creates a positive difference for each student by providing an engaging, innovative and caring learning environment. The health and well-being of each student is recognised as an important aspect of the environment and we therefore acknowledge that head lice (pediculosis: tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed) can infest between 2-3% of primary school children at any one time.

AIMS

- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice and their treatment.
- To minimise the incidents and spread of head lice.

IMPLEMENTATION

- 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.
- As part of our annual permissions, parents provide digital consent for staff to conduct head lice checks as required.
- Parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children, the school will assist by offering information about head lice treatment and prevention.
- Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, the school will ensure that the parents of any child found to have live lice are informed and will be required to have appropriate treatment. In line with the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations, 2009, students who have been identified as having head lice will be excluded from school until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced. Students may be treated one evening and return to school the next day and that the presence of eggs in the hair is not cause for exclusion.
- The school will inform parents when outbreaks of head lice occur in their child's year level.
- The school will ensure that information relating to the management and eradication of head lice appears throughout the year in the school newsletter and via Compass, particularly at times of heavy infestations.
- Parents/guardians will be informed that one treatment is not sufficient to manage the problem.

REFERENCE:

- Department of Education and Training Policy Guide:
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/headlice.aspx#1>
- Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations, 2009:
[http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/Domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/PubStatbook.nsf/b05145073fa2a882ca256da4001bc4e7/A3B0A9845FD0980ACA25768D002AB0B5/\\$FILE/09-178sr.pdf](http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/Domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/PubStatbook.nsf/b05145073fa2a882ca256da4001bc4e7/A3B0A9845FD0980ACA25768D002AB0B5/$FILE/09-178sr.pdf)
- More information: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/parents.htm>

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EVALUATION

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

Review

Version	Edited By / Comments	Next Review
Feb 2015	Well-being sub-committee	Feb 2018
May 2018	Well-being sub-committee	May 2021