

# KEW EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY MANUAL

**POLICY NO.**

**HEADLICE**

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**PURPOSE:**

To give guidelines to parents in our community about the infection and treatment of head lice in the school and at home and how the school can assist families with information and control of these outbreaks.

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

While parents have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, Kew East Primary School has a role in the management of head lice infections and in providing support for parents and students.

Head lice infestations are a common occurrence in schools and at some stage during your child's time at school they may come in contact with these live lice and eggs.

**GUIDELINES:**

- The school will provide current up-to date information about the detection, treatment and control of head lice during the year and when an outbreak occurs.
- A consent form for checking children's hair for head lice is sent out annually for parents to sign and return to the school.
- Medically trained volunteers from our school community are available (with consent from the parents) to check children's hair for live lice and eggs. These volunteers are available to give further information and may hold information sessions throughout the year.
- The school requires that parents refrain from sending their children to school with untreated head lice. Students who have been detected with head lice will be required to treat their hair before returning to school (as per Health Regulations). The presence of eggs in the hair is not cause for exclusion.
- One treatment of the student's hair is not sufficient to manage the problem.
- When the school office or teacher is notified of a head lice outbreak, a information letter will be sent home to each child in the class and the volunteers will attend the school to check the grades affected. If live lice are found in a student's hair, a phone call will be made and written notification will be sent home via the child. The parents will be expected to collect the child from school if head lice are found in the child's hair. This is to try to control the outbreak as quickly as possible.
- The hair should be treated that same night and if the child returns to school the following day they will be checked to ensure treatment has been effective.
- Staff at this school will continue to take a proactive role in minimising the spread of head lice by notifying the parent / guardian if a student exhibits any signs of head lice.
- The school has a commitment to help reduce stigma and maintain confidentiality following head lice inspections and a letter will be sent home to all children in the class notifying them that inspections were carried out.

**PARENTS ROLE:**

- To ensure that we have the permission slip for each child to enable the head lice inspections to be carried out.
- If a child has been detected having head lice, treatment will be commenced before the child returns to school.
- The parent / guardian will be vigilant in checking the children's hair on a regular basis and inform the school if live lice or eggs are found.
- If live lice are found in a student's hair, the parents will be expected to collect their child from school.

**DOCUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THIS POLICY:**

- DEET Circular 9/2002 Additional Advice on the management of head lice in schools.
- Human Services – 'Scratching for Answers?' - treating and controlling head lice.
- Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1990
- Schools of the Future Handbook

**Program Leader: Student Wellbeing**

**Effective Date: 2003**

**Issue Number:**

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