

# HEAD LICE

## **PURPOSE**

When children are at school most families will have contact with head lice. The school acknowledges its role in supporting families by providing clear processes and accurate information so that student absences due to head lice are kept to a minimum and the spread of head lice is contained.

## **AIMS**

- To support families in the prevention and treatment of head lice
- To provide parents with up to date information about head lice
- To set clear protocols for any inspection program
- To contain any spreading of head lice at Murrumbena Primary School

## **GUIDELINES**

- All families to be provided with
  - Up to date information, distributed through the newsletter and other school communication processes including information on detection, treatment and control
  - Copies of 'Treating and Controlling Head Lice' produced by Human Services
- There will be a nominated head lice resource person at the school who parents can contact with further queries.
- Clear protocols to be implemented, including use of a pro-forma to obtain written parental permission for all head lice inspections.  
(See Appendix One- Consent form for Head lice Inspections)
- A return to school declaration form to be handed to the office upon returning to school and a further form to be returned after the second treatment  
(See Appendix Two – Return to School Declaration)
- A proforma letter to be given to all students involved in inspections. (See Appendix Three and Appendix Four -Notification of Inspection Letter)
- Commitment to help reduce stigma and maintain confidentiality following head lice inspections.
- Exclusion of children who have head lice until all treatment has commenced and all eggs are removed.  
(This may include children being sent home during the day)

## **EVALUATION**

- Monitoring of above processes by the Education and Communication Committee
- Informal feedback from parents and teachers about procedures
- Formal monitoring of head lice incidences

**APPENDIX ONE**

**CONSENT FORM TO CONDUCT HEAD LICE INSPECTIONS**

Permission to cover the duration of the student’s school at:

**MURRUMBEENA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Throughout your child’s schooling, the school will be arranging head lice inspections of students.

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

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

The inspections of students will be conducted by a trained person approved by the principal.

Before any inspections are conducted the person conducting the inspections 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.

The person conducting the inspections will check through each student’s hair to see if any lice or eggs are present.

Persons authorised by the school principal may also visually check your child’s hair for the presence of head lice, when it is suspected that head lice may be present. They do not physically touch the child’s head during a visual check.

In cases where head lice are found, the person inspecting the student will inform the student’s teacher and the school office. The school will make appropriate contact with the parents/guardians/carers.

Please note that health regulations require that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until appropriate treatment has commenced. The school may request the completion of an ‘action taken form’, which requires parents/guardians/carers to nominate if and when the treatment has started.

Parent’s/guardian’s/carer’s full name: .....

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Address:..... Post code:.....

Name of child attending the school:.....

I hereby give my consent for the above named child to participate in the school’s head lice inspection program for the duration of their schooling at this school.

Signature of parent/guardian/carer: ..... Date.....

**APPENDIX TWO**  
**Return to School Declaration**

**Notification that appropriate head lice treatment has commenced**

Please return this section to your child's school when appropriate head lice treatment has commenced (after first application of head lice treatment and removal of eggs).

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (parent/guardian), have treated my child,  
\_\_\_\_\_, (name), for head lice and agree to undertake a  
full head lice treatment program until such time that my child is free of lice and eggs.

Treatment used:

Date applied:

Second treatment due date:

Signed:

Date:

**Teacher use:**

Return to school date (initial treatment):

Notification that treatment has been completed (second treatment) provided

Date:

Teacher's name:

## **APPENDIX THREE**

### **MURRUMBEENA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

#### **Notification of Head Lice Inspection**

**Date**

**Dear Parents,**

Today all children in your child's class were checked for head lice.

No lice or nits were detected in your child's hair at this inspection.

Please continue to check your child's hair regularly.

Regards

Principal

## **APPENDIX FOUR**

### **MURRUMBEENA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

#### **Notification of Head Lice Inspection**

**Date**

Dear Parents,

Today all children in your child's class were checked for head lice.

Your child was found to have either lice or nits. Could you please treat with appropriate lotion and ensure that all eggs are removed from the hair before your child returns to school.

A Return to School Declaration form has been included for you to complete.

Regards

Principal

