



HEAD LICE POLICY

BLACKBURN LAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Florence Street Blackburn 3130

RATIONALE

Head lice causes concern and frustration for some parents, teachers and children. This school policy is intended to outline roles, responsibilities and expectations of the school community to assist with treating and controlling head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner.

Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, our school community will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

AIMS

To ensure that parents and carers are well informed about head lice and effective treatment for head lice.

School expectations for monitoring and treating and control of head lice will be communicated to parents /carers.

IMPLEMENTATION

It is the expectation of parents/carers and families attending this school that:

1. Children with long hair will attend school with hair tied back
2. The hair of all family members will be checked for head lice on a regular basis, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method;
3. If head lice are detected, you will notify the school as soon as possible and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced (in accordance with Health Infectious Disease Regulations 2001);
4. You endeavour to also notify the parents or carers of your child's friends so they have an early opportunity to detect and treat their children if necessary;
5. Only safe and recommended practices to treat head lice are used;
6. Your child does not attend school until head lice has been treated (in accordance with Health Infectious Diseases Regulations 2001);
7. You maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with head lice control measures; and
8. You act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community especially around issues of head lice, including not identifying families experiencing head lice other than your own.

To support parents/carers and the broader school community to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management the school will undertake to:

1. Distribute up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of the year or more frequently if required; <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/head-lice-nits>
2. Include information about head lice management in orientation and transition programs for new families/staff attending the school;
3. Include information and updates in school newsletters;
4. Provide practical advice and maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures;
5. Access community educational resources and support, such as primary school nurses, community health centres and local government;

6. Abide by the current version of recommendations of the School Exclusion Policy of the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001 in that the responsibility to exclude a child from the school rests with the principal or person in charge;
7. Only exclude children from school with live head lice;
8. Accept the advice of parents that appropriate treatment has commenced;
9. Encourage children to learn about head lice so as to help remove any stigma or 'bullying' associated with the issue;
10. Be aware of real difficulties some parents may encounter and seek extra support if required;
11. Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community especially around issues of head lice, including identifying families experiencing head lice only on a 'need to know' basis with teachers and not with other families; and
12. Continue to seek opportunities to increase our collective understanding of and response to managing head lice.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed within three years.

RATIFIED BY SCHOOL COUNCIL: November, 2017

PRINCIPAL: Loisia Steed SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Dan Watts