

Policy:	Head Lice	Code:	E
Date:	April	Review:	2020

1. Basic Beliefs

Numurkah Primary School acknowledges that, while parents/guardians have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, the school also has a role in the management of head lice infections and in providing support for parents/guardians and students. The school's role will include offering up-to-date information, a regular screening process, and by alerting parents of lice detected.

Rationale:

- Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed.
- Anyone can have head lice.
- Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They spread from person to person by head to head contact, and by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and head-gear such as hats.
- 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, the school has a role in assisting eradication.

Aims:

- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- To ensure that an effective process for treating head lice is well known and consistently followed.
- To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice treatment.
- To encourage parents to work with and support the school in minimising the effect of head lice on all children at our school.

2. Guidelines

- At the time of enrolment, permission from all families will be sought requesting permission for approved trained personnel to check their children's hair.
- The permission note will indicate that if a parent/carer does not give authority for school personnel to screen their child's hair for head lice, that they will take responsibility to screen their own child. The school will notify all parents/carers who have not given permission when a screening occurs.
- Screenings will take place during each school as necessary. Strict confidentiality will be maintained at all times.
- Parents and carers will be notified if their child are found to have lice. Children will be supervised in the office until they are collected.
- Students will need to be treated before they can return to school. (ref. Regulation 13, 14 and 15 of Health Infectious Diseases Regulations, 2001)..
- On return to school students with live head lice will need to return the Head Lice Action slip.
- Parents/carers will be provided with up to date information about the method of treatment in relation to head lice. Information will be from <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice>.
- Parents/carers will be notified through the school newsletter if there has been a head lice outbreak and be asked to check their child's/children's hair.

3. EVALUATION:

- Permission notes are returned, giving approval to check individual children.
- Spot checks will be conducted during each term.
- Children are treated promptly upon infestation.
- Infestations are decreasing in number.
- Information is provided through the newsletter.

Period of Review: 2 Years

Responsibility: Curriculum Sub Committee

Key Person: Principal

CONSENT FORM TO CONDUCT HEAD LICE INSPECTIONS

Permission to cover the duration of the student's schooling at:

NUMURKAH 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 Staff personnel at the school who have offered to assist with headlice checks. This is fully supported by the Principal, teaching staff and School Council.

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.

Person's 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.

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

Please note that health regulations requires 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:

Parent's/guardian's/carer's full name:

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.....

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

Please inform the school if guardianship/custody changes for your child, as this form will need to be re-signed to reflect these changes. Please also inform the school in writing if you no longer wish to provide consent for the school to undertake head lice inspections for your child.