HEAD LICE

RATIONALE
While parents/guardians have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, schools also have a role in the management of head lice outbreaks and in providing support for parents/guardians and students. We acknowledge that most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time.

AIM
- To minimize the spread of head lice among students

IMPLEMENTATION
- Foster open and confidential dialogue with parents to encourage the reporting of lice detection and treatment
- To distribute up-to-date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents/guardians and staff at the beginning of every year and more frequently if required (available from website <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/phd/headlice>)
- The nomination of a head lice resource/support person (parent/guardian or staff member) who parents/guardians can contact through the school.
- Employ a staged approach
  1. Notify parents in affected class
  2. Notify all parents through newsletter
  3. Access Shire or Primary School Nurse support
- A requirement that parents/guardians refrain from sending their children to school with untreated head lice. (It should be noted that 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. Parents/guardians need to be aware that one treatment is not sufficient to manage the problem. If a student re-attends school with live lice the school may again exclude the student until the live insects have been removed.
- Clear protocols for any inspection program that the school wishes to implement, including a pro forma for obtaining written parental permission for all inspections including those by local government personnel.
- Use a proforma to notify parents/guardians of those students found to have head lice. The proforma will incorporate a detachable slip at the bottom, asking parents/guardians to indicate the treatment used and when it commenced, and a further reply slip for a second treatment in seven days time.
- A commitment to help reduce stigma and maintain confidentiality following head lice inspections, e.g. a letter notifying parents of an inspection will be given to all students in the class, not just those found to have head lice.

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