

3.16 HEAD LICE

POLICY

Beaumaris North Primary School will take a proactive approach to minimising the spread of head lice between students.

PURPOSE

The aim of the policy is to:

- Respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- Ensure effective processes for treating head lice are well known and consistently followed.
- Ensure that parents, guardians and students are well informed about head lice and their treatment.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. While it is parents who have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children, the school will assist by offering up-to-date information, by offering a screening process at least once per term, and by alerting parents of lice when detected.
2. The Principal will ensure that volunteer parents are authorised to carry out head lice inspections (physical examinations) of students head and hair for the presence of head lice. Confidentiality and privacy issues will be expected from all head lice 'Head Hunters' volunteers who must sign a confidentiality form prior to commencing screening. All volunteers will hold a current Working With Children Check
3. The school will ask parents to sign a permission form upon enrolment, which is also included in the enrolment package for new students, allowing their children to be inspected by our "Head Hunters" volunteers for the presence of head lice. Only children whose parents have returned the permission form will be inspected.
4. A head lice 'Parent Notification' form is completed and sent home when a child has been screened by the Head Hunters and evidence of lice or eggs has been found in the child's hair.
5. If live lice or eggs are found during the screening, parents will be phoned and requested to collect the students from school so as not to infect other students.
6. The school will provide parents of children found to have live lice with information about head lice treatment and prevention in the 'Parent Notification' form.

7. If multiple cases are found within a year level, all children in that year level will receive a letter asking parents to be vigilant.
8. Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, the Principal will ensure that the parents of any child found to have live lice are informed that their child is to be excluded from attending school until appropriate treatment has commenced.
9. The Principal will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice appears throughout the year in the school newsletter, particularly at times of heavy infestations.

Ratified by School Council August 2017

Next Review Date 2020