

Head Lice Management Policy

RATIONALE:

- Head Lice (Pediculus) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. Probably between 2-3% of primary school children are infested at any one time. While they do not carry or transmit disease, head lice are most common cause of head itch and scratching in children. This may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands; therefore head lice need to be eradicated.

AIMS:

- Respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively
- Ensure that parents/guardians are well informed about head lice treatment
- Minimise the outbreak and spread of head lice

IMPLEMENTATION:

- 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 and by alerting parents when head lice are detected
- On a child's enrolment, the school will ask parents to sign a permission form allowing their children to be screened by trained personnel for the presence of head lice as and when required. This form will cover the duration of the child's schools at Kew Primary School. Only children whose parents have signed and returned the permission will be included in this screening.
- Appropriate school personnel will have the required training in the detection and management of head lice
- The responsibility to exclude a student from attending school rests with the principal. Schools must follow the Health (Infectious Diseases Regulations, 2001), which notes that principals must exclude students found to have live head lice from attending school until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced. A student with head lice can be treated one evening and return to school the next day
- The presence of eggs in the hair is not cause for exclusion
- Information will be provided to parents of children found to have head lice about head lice treatment and prevention
- A note will be sent home to inform parents/caregivers that a student in their child's class has had head lice
- Information relating to the treatment and prevention of head lice are to appear throughout the year in the school newsletter, particularly at times of heavy outbreaks

EVALUATION:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle

This policy was ratified by school council in 2015