



HEAD LICE POLICY

Brunswick South Primary School

| Policy Implementation Date | Review Date | Responsible for Review |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| October 2015 | October 2018 | Policy Subcommittee |

Purpose

To minimise outbreaks of head lice at Brunswick South Primary School by quickly and effectively identifying and responding to incidences of head lice.

Compliance requirements

Brunswick South Primary School will comply with:

- Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009, which state that children with head lice can be readmitted to school after treatment, has commenced.
- Guidelines related to head lice management in schools as published and amended by the Departments of Health and Education and Early Childhood Development.

Policy points

This policy provides information about:

Head lice and eggs

Parents' and staff responsibilities

Finding and treating head lice

About head lice and eggs

- Head lice are small (about 2mm in length), wingless, blood-sucking insects.
- Head lice eggs (sometimes called nits) are very small (the size of a pinhead), oval and off-white in colour.
- People get head lice from direct hair-to-hair contact with someone who has head lice.
- Head lice bite which makes the head itch.
- Head lice are common in school-aged children.
- Head lice do not carry or transmit infectious diseases.

Parents/guardians are responsible for

- Regularly checking their child/ren's hair
- When head lice or eggs are found:
 - Immediately treating hair
 - Informing parents/ guardians of child/ren's friends and carers
 - Ensuring their child does not return to school until the day after appropriate treatment has started.

Brunswick South Primary School staff are responsible for

- Providing up-to-date information on finding and treating head lice as required through the school newsletter.
- Educating staff and students about head lice to remove any stigma associated with the issue.
- Informing parents/guardians if their child has live head lice.
- If a child continues to have outbreaks of head lice, the parents/guardians will be contacted and the school will provide as much information and assistance as possible to help with effective treatment.
- Maintaining confidentiality in relation to head lice or eggs.

Finding head lice and eggs

1. Comb any type of hair conditioner on to dry, brushed (detangled) hair. This stuns the lice and makes it difficult for them to grip the hair or crawl around.
2. Now comb sections of the hair with a fine tooth, head lice comb.
3. Wipe the conditioner from the comb onto a paper towel or tissue.
4. Look on the tissue and on the comb for lice and eggs.
5. Repeat the combing for every part of the head at least 4 or 5 times
6. If lice or eggs are found, the child's hair should be treated.

Treating head lice and eggs

1. Treat as recommended by your local pharmacy.
2. Concentrate on the head - there is no evidence to suggest that you need to clean the house or classroom.
3. If you are using lotions, apply the product to dry hair.
4. Comb hair with a head lice comb – combs with long, rounded stainless steel teeth positioned very close together have been shown to be the most effective.
5. No treatment kills all of the eggs so treatment must involve two applications seven days apart.
6. Only the pillowcase requires specific laundering; either wash it in hot water (at least 60 degrees centigrade) or dry it using a clothes dryer on the hot or warm setting.
7. There is no need to treat the whole family, unless they also have head lice.
8. A child with head lice can be treated one evening and return to school the next day, even if there are still some eggs present.

Preventing head lice

- There is no product available that prevents head lice.
- Using the conditioner and comb method once a week will help you detect any head lice early and minimise the problem.
- Tying back long hair can help prevent the spread of head lice.