

HEAD LICE POLICY

HOPETOUN
P-12 COLLEGE

Rationale:

- Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. While they do not carry or transmit disease, they are a cause of head itch and scratching, which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands; therefore, they need to be controlled.

Aims:

- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- To ensure effective processes for treating head lice are well known and consistently followed.
- To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice and their treatment.

Implementation:

- Anyone can catch head lice. Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They spread from person to person by head to head contact, and may also be spread by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and hats.
- While it is parent/guardians who have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children, the College will assist by offering up to date information, a screening process and by alerting parents of lice when detected.
- The College principal will ensure all staff authorised to carry out visual or physical checks of student's heads for head lice are provided with professional development regarding head lice.
- The College will ask parents to sign a permission form allowing their children to be inspected by our specific staff members for the presence of head lice. Only children whose parents have returned the permission form (which forms part of the enrolment form) will be inspected. However, all students may be visually checked. (see Form 1)
- The College will endeavour to complete inspections of primary students every term and secondary students as required, usually in the first two weeks.
- It is recommended that families inspect their children for lice or eggs regularly (weekly) and to notify the College when treatment has commenced.
- All students checked will be provided with a confidential report indicating to parents/guardians the results of the inspection (see Form 2), as well as advice on the latest information regarding head lice. If **live lice** have been detected on your child, parents/guardians will be notified immediately.
- Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, the principal will ensure that the parents/guardians of any child found to have **live lice** are informed that their child is to be excluded from the College until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced.
- **Lice eggs** are not grounds for exclusion.
- Upon their return to College, parents/guardians of excluded children are to present the signed declaration on Form 2 indicating that appropriate treatment has commenced. All excluded children must also undergo another inspection from our trained head lice inspectors prior to recommencement at the College.
- The principal will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice is available at the College.

Evaluation:

This policy was last ratified by College Council on: 13/09/2017



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Head lice are common amongst children and remain the parent’s responsibility to manage. In support of the parents/guardians, the College will hold head lice inspections throughout the year.

The management of head lice works best when all children are involved in our inspection program.

The College is aware that this can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining student confidentiality and avoiding potential embarrassment.

Before any inspections are conducted by our trained staff, it will be explained to all students what is being done and why, and it will be emphasised to students that the presence of head lice 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 physically search through each student’s hair to see if any lice or eggs are present.

In cases where head lice is found, the person inspecting the student will inform the student’s class teacher and the principal. A confidential report indicating to the parents/guardians the results of the inspection and comprehensive advice on the treatment of head lice will be sent home with the child.

Please note that health regulations require that where a child has live head lice, that child is not to return to College until appropriate treatment has commenced and inspection completed.

PLEASE NOTE: All students may be visually checked (no touching) for head lice by staff members irrespective of whether or not this consent form for a physical inspection is completed and returned.

Parent’s/Guardian’s Full Name.....

Address..... Postcode.....

Name(s) of Child/Children attending the College: Year Level:

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I hereby give my consent for the above named children to participate in the College’s head lice inspection program.

Signature of Parent/Guardian.....Date.....

HEAD LICE CHECK REPORT

Form 2

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Your child was checked today,..... by trained staff at the College for the presence of head lice.

This was a:

- Visual Check (observation without physical contact)
- Inspection (physical check of your child's head and hair)

The results of the check are:

- No lice or eggs detected.
- Dead eggs were found.
- Live eggs were found.
- Live lice were found.

Therefore the following action is required:

- No action required.
- Your child's hair must be treated with a safe method that will kill and remove all live lice before your child can be returned to College.

Please note: All children who are found to have live lice will be re-checked by our trained staff prior to returning to College to ensure the infestation has been effectively treated.

Signature.....Date.....

Principal

HEAD LICE TREATMENT REPLY SLIP

If your child has been detected with live lice, this reply slip must be returned to College at the same time that your child returns.

- I have treated my child's hair in a manner that has killed and removed the live lice.
- I would like information on the recommended way of removing eggs and live lice.

Child's Name.....Parent/Guardian Signature.....