

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:

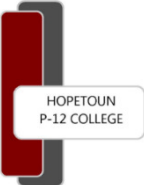
- Anyone can catch head lice. Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They spread from person to person by head to head contact, and may also be spread by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and hats.
- While it is parent/guardians who have the primary responsibility for the detection and 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 physically inspected. However, all students may be visually checked.
- 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 1), 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 1 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 will be reviewed as part of the three-year review cycle.

Reference: DE&T Policy Advisory Library, accessed 4/2/2021

This policy was last ratified by College Council on: 10 February 2021



HEAD LICE CHECK REPORT **Form 1**

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

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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.....