

Williamstown Primary School Head Lice Policy

Authorisation

The policy was re - adopted at Williamstown Primary School Council meeting on 15.06.2004

Review date

This policy shall be reviewed in 2007 or updated before if required.

Rationale

Williamstown Primary School recognises that parents/guardians have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, however we believe that the school has a role in the management of head lice infestations and in providing support for the parents/guardians and students.

This Head Lice Policy focuses on the management of head lice infestations at the school and support for the families involved.

Williamstown Primary School acknowledges that most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time and that it is important for the school to assist families in managing this problem. Minimising the anxiety for families and students is an important tenet of the policy.

Implementation

The school will assist parents/guardians in managing head lice problems by distributing up-to-date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents/guardians and staff at the beginning of every year and more frequently if required.

The school will nominate a head lice resource/support person (parent/guardian or staff member) who parents/guardians can contact at the school at nominated times.

Once head lice are detected the school requires that parents/guardians refrain from sending their children to school with untreated head lice. Parents/guardians need to be aware that one treatment is not sufficient to manage the problem. If a student re-attends school with live lice the school will again exclude the student until the live insects have been removed.

The school will assist parents by providing parents/guardians with comprehensive advice about the use of safe treatment practices which do not place students' health at risk.

The school will use a pro forma for obtaining written parental permission for all inspections including those by local government personnel.

The school will use a pro forma letter of notification to parents/guardians of those students found to have head lice, which will incorporate a detachable slip at the bottom, asking parents/guardians to indicate the treatment used and when it commences

The school will provide classroom activities to give students an understanding of the habits and life-cycle of head lice in order to minimise the incidence of stigmatisation of particular students and families.

The school will train appropriate school personnel in detection, prevention and management of head lice at the school level.

The school also recommends that parents/guardians carry out the following procedures:

- regular (preferably once per week) inspection of their child/children's hair for lice or lice eggs (using conditioner and a head lice comb is the most effective method)

- tying back long hair to assist preventing spread of head lice
- regular inspection of all household members followed by treatment if head lice are detected
- upon detection of head lice, notify the school and advise when treatment has commenced.

Evaluation

Decrease in incidence of head lice.

Sensitive approach to those with head lice.

Greater awareness in whole school community of issues surrounding head lice.