



Head Lice Policy

Rationale or Purpose

Head lice (pediculosis) 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, 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

3. 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 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 of lice when detected.
- The school principal will ensure all teachers and aides are provided with professional development regarding head lice, who will then be authorised to carry out visual checks of students heads for head lice (observations without touching of the students head or hair). The principal will also identify specific staff members to carry out head lice inspections (physical examinations) of students head and hair for the presence of head lice.
- Each term or where an outbreak has been identified, all children with permission will have a head lice check.
- The school 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 ticked the permission box on the enrolment form will be inspected, however, all students may be visually checked.
- Children who do not have permission for a head lice check and are suspected of having head lice will have their parents phoned to come and check their child.
- Children inspected and found to have evidence of eggs/lice will be provided with a confidential report indicating to parents the results of the inspection (see Form 1), as well as advice on the latest information regarding head lice.
- Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, the principal will ensure that the parents of any child found to have live lice are informed that their child is to be excluded from attending school until appropriate treatment has commenced.
- The principal will also provide parents of children found to have live lice with information about head lice treatment and prevention.

- Upon their return to school, parents of excluded children must present the signed declaration on Form 1 indicating that appropriate treatment has commenced. All excluded children to undergo another inspection from our trained head lice inspectors upon returning to school the following day.
- The principal will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice appears throughout the year in the school newsletter, particularly at times of heavy infestations.

4. Evaluation and review

This policy will be reviewed according to the School Council Calendar Policy Review

7. School Council Ratification

This policy was ratified by school council on 15th August 2017



Moe (South Street) Primary School 4662

P. O. Box 612 MOE, 3825

Telephone: (03) 51271512 Fax: (03) 51 261149

Email: moe.ps.south@edumail.vic.gov.au

'Positivity, Accountability, Respect, Teamwork'

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Today your child was screened by a staff member of the Moe (South Street) Primary School Head Lice Program, and was found to have the following:

- Live lice
- Dead lice
- Louse eggs

If **eggs or lice are found**, please treat your child appropriately by following the information sheet on "Management and Treatment of Head Lice". (**See over**)

* When your child returns to school after treatment, please have them bring the slip below to the front office. Your child must have their hair rechecked at the office the morning they return.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Thank you for partaking in this school community approach to head lice control.

Kind regards,
Jamie Tactor

NOTIFICATION OF TREATMENT SLIP DATE: ___/___/___

Child's name: _____ Grade: _____

My child was recently screened by the Staff Managed Head Lice Program and was found to have live lice and/or eggs.

I have treated my child with _____
and they will be returning to school today.

Parent/Carers Name (Please Print) _____ _____/_____/_____
(Signature) (Date)

***Please return notification of treatment slip to the front office upon arrival for a follow up head lice check.**

Management and Treatment of Head Lice



Responsibilities as Parent/Guardian/Carer:

- Regularly inspecting their child's hair (preferably once a week) to look for lice or live eggs and inspecting all household members and treating if necessary.
- Ensuring their child does not attend school with untreated head lice.
- Using safe treatment practices which do not place their child's health at risk.
- Notifying the school if their child is affected and advising the school when the treatment has commenced.
- Notifying parents /carers of your child's friends so that they too, have the opportunity to detect and treat their hair children if necessary.

Prevention strategies

- Regularly check your child's hair for any eggs or lice.
- Tying back your child's hair can help prevent the spread of head lice.
- Partaking (with consent of the parent/guardian) in whole school head lice checks.

Treatment choices

Chemical:

Treat and comb to remove the head lice and eggs; and repeat in seven days.

Non-Chemical:

Use conditioner and comb to remove the head lice and eggs; and repeat every two days until no live lice have been found for 10 days.

Students may be excluded from school until the day after treatment has commenced, as set out in the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001.

For Further information please visit:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Documents/Scratching%20for%20Answers.pdf>