

## **HEATHCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### ***HEAD LICE POLICY***

#### **PURPOSE**

To outline roles, responsibilities and expectations of the school community to assist with the treating and controlling of head lice in a consistent manner.

Schools must:

- develop an accurate and consistent policy to managing head lice, that is approved by the school council
- obtain informed written consent of parents/guardians prior to students being inspected for head lice
- exclude infected students until the day after treatment has commenced.

#### **GUIDELINES FOR ACTION**

- Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice our school community will assist all families to manage head lice effectively.
- The school policy draws on information obtained from the DET recommended website – [www.dhs.vic.gov.au/phd/headlice](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/phd/headlice)
- Children's hair should be checked for head lice on a regular basis at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method. If necessary hair should be treated.
- Classroom teachers may visually check children's hair when it is suspected head lice may be present.
- Parents/carers need to ensure that students do not attend school with untreated live head lice (in accordance with Health Infectious Diseases Act 2001). The responsibility to exclude a child from school rests with the Principal.
- Parents/carers are required to notify the school if a child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced (in accordance with Health Infectious Diseases 2001)
- Children with hair at shoulder length will be required to attend school with their hair tied back
- Boys and girls without long hair tied back will be supplied with a hair tie by staff.
- A sympathetic attitude, avoiding stigmatising/blaming will be maintained.
- Distribute up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff as required.
- A letter is sent home with all students when a case of head lice has been reported.

#### **EVALUATION**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four-year review cycle.

**This policy was last ratified by School Council in March 2014.**