

---

# Head lice policy

## **BASIC BELIEFS**

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 the most common cause of head itch and scratching which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands; therefore, they need to be eradicated. Head lice continue to cause concern and frustration for some parents, teachers and children.

Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, our school community will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

## **AIMS**

- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- To ensure that an effective process for treating head lice is well known and consistently followed.
- To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice treatment.
- To reduce the spread of head lice.

## **GUIDELINES FOR ACTION**

- Teachers or staff members suspecting that a child has head lice, are to report their concerns to the AP as they are not permitted or qualified to search a child's hair, inspect for head lice, or diagnose a case of head lice.
- Parents/carers are requested to notify the school if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced (in accordance with Health Infectious Disease Regulations 2001)
- When head lice is detected or reported, all students within the class will be provided with a letter informing parents of the presence of head lice. The letter will have a return slip for all parents to complete and return to the College within two days.
- Parents will also be provided with the pamphlet "Treating and Controlling Head Lice".
- Information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice will be provided throughout the year in the school newsletter. This information will be written by the School Nurse (SN) and AP.
- The College will provide practical advice and maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures.
- Children with long hair will be encouraged to attend school with their hair tied back.
- The School Nurse is available for consultation and to provide advice to parents, students and staff on this matter.