



HEAD LICE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Definition:

Head lice do not transmit infectious diseases and most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time.

Rationale:

To support and provide consistent and practical advice on the management of head lice in partnership with parents/carers and students. Whilst acknowledging parents have prime responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, MCS will support and provide consistent and comprehensive advice on the detection, safe treatment and control of head lice. Recognise that the imposition on families managing head lice.

Aims:

- To manage and ultimately reduce outbreaks of head lice at Malvern Central School.
- To work collaboratively with parents to implement practices and procedures to prevent and minimise the impact of head lice outbreaks at MCS.

Implementation:

1. The role of **students/parents** is to:
 - 1.1. ensure that those with long hair i.e. shoulder-length and longer is tied back whilst at school.
2. The role of **parents** is to:
 - 2.1. check their child's hair and household members for head lice on a regular basis.
 - 2.1.1. in the case of an outbreak of head lice in their child's class, check their child's hair for head lice using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method.
 - 2.2. ensure that their child does not attend school with untreated head lice (Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, School Exclusion Table).
 - 2.3. ensure that children with long hair i.e. shoulder-length and longer is tied back whilst at school.
 - 2.4. notify the school upon detection of head lice and advise when treatment has commenced.
 - 2.5. use only safe and recommended practices to treat head lice.
3. The role of **nominated admin staff** is to:
 - 3.1. Provide up-to-date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents at the beginning of the school year via the newsletter and website.
 - 3.2. distribute a letter of notification to parents of those students who are found to have head lice, with a detachable slip asking parents/carers to indicate the treatment used and when it commenced.
 - 3.3. distribute a letter of notification to the parents of students in the learning space where the outbreak has occurred.
4. The role of **staff** should be to:
 - 4.1. notify **nominated admin staff**, if through a visual check without physical contact or having been alerted by a parent, that a student has head lice and a notification letter is required.
 - 4.2. be respectful of families experiencing difficulties with head lice and to maintain confidentiality.
5. The role of the **Principal** is to:
 - 5.1. have overall responsibility for exclusion of a student due to head lice infestation.

Resources:

- School Policy & Advisory Guide
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/headlice.aspx>
Retrieved 31 October 2014
- Department of Health Victoria
<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/>
Retrieved 31 October 2014
- Head lice Management Toolkit
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/pages/headlice.aspx>
Retrieved 7 November 2014
- Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009
<http://docs.health.vic.gov.au/docs/doc/Public-Health-and-Wellbeing-Regulations-2009>
Retrieved 7 November 2014

Evaluation:

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

- Review Date:

This policy was last ratified by School Council in: **November 2014**