



## Head Lice

### Purpose

In schools' head lice can continue to cause concern and frustration for some parents/guardians/carers, teachers and students. Head lice do not transmit infectious diseases but rather they are transmitted by having head to head contact with someone who has head lice. Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, the control and management of head lice infections is a shared responsibility supported by the school.

Pomonal Primary School acknowledges that head lice can be an issue from time to time and therefore provides the following comprehensive management plan in order to minimise risk, elevate anxiety and manage the spread of head lice infections at school.

### Management Plan:

1. Obtain written parental/guardian/carer consent upon enrolment to conduct head lice inspections. Head lice inspections will be conducted periodically throughout the duration of students schooling at Pomonal Primary School (Appendix 1).
2. Distribute up-to-date information on detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents/guardians/carers and staff at the detection of head lice in the school.
3. It is the responsibility of the Principal to protect other students from head lice transmission. Hence, once head lice are detected, the infected child will be removed from class and arrangements will be made for the child to return home until appropriate treatment commences. This measure will only be taken if a child has live head lice and not when head lice eggs are detected.
4. A note will be provided to parents / the student upon detection of live head lice or head lice eggs (Appendix 2).
5. Upon detection, an alert notice will be distributed to the school community that head lice have been detected in the school.

### Parent Responsibilities

- Parents are encouraged to regularly check their child for head lice and to provide a sympathetic attitude to those parents experiencing difficulty with control measures.
- Parents are required to identify treatment used and the commencement date via an Action Taken Form before their child returns to school.

## **School Responsibilities**

- The Principal will authorise persons (e.g. teachers or parent volunteers) to regularly undertake visual checks of students' hair, with minimal physical contact.
- The Principal will ensure that the management plan outlined above is implemented upon detection of head lice at the school.

## **Confidentiality**

- Pomonal Primary School staff and head lice inspectors will treat all information regarding particular students and head lice in a confidential manner.
- Parents/guardians/carers and students will be encouraged to treat all information regarding a particular student and head lice in a confidential manner.

**School Council Endorsement:** 17 May 2016

**Policy review date:** May 2019

## Appendix I

### CONSENT FORM TO CONDUCT HEAD LICE INSPECTIONS

#### Permission to cover the duration of the student's schooling at Pomonal Primary School

Throughout your child's schooling, the school may conduct head lice inspections of students.

The management of head lice infection works best when all students are involved in our screening program.

The school is aware that this can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining student confidentiality and avoiding stigmatisation.

A person approved by the Principal will conduct the inspection of students.

Before any inspections are conducted the person conducting the inspections will explain to all students what is being done and why and it will be emphasised to students that the presence of head lice in their hair does not mean that their hair is less clean or well kept than anyone else's. It will also be pointed out that head lice can be itchy and annoying and if you know you have got them, you can do something about it.

The person conducting the inspections will check through each student's hair to see if any lice or eggs are present.

Person's authorised by the school Principal may also visually check your child's hair for the presence of head lice, when it is suspected that head lice may be present.

In cases where head lice are found, the person inspecting the student will inform the Principal. The Principal will follow the management plan set out in the head lice policy and will make appropriate contact with the parents/guardians/carers.

Health regulations requires that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until appropriate treatment has commenced. The school will request the completion of an 'action taken form', which requires parents/guardians/carers to nominate if and when the treatment has started.

Name of child attending the school:.....

Parent's/guardian's/carer's full name: .....

Parent's/guardian's/carer's full name: .....

Address:..... Post code:.....

I hereby give my consent for the above named child to participate in the school's head lice inspection program for the duration of their schooling at this school.

**Signature of parent/guardian/carer: ..... Date.....**

**Signature of parent/guardian/carer: ..... Date.....**

**Appendix 2**

**Pomonal Primary School**

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

Head lice or eggs are suspected to have been detected on your child and it is very important for you to treat your child as soon as possible, using safe treatment practices. Please see the attached pamphlet, *Treating and Controlling Head Lice*, from the Department of Human Services. This pamphlet has informative guidelines regarding detecting and treating head lice and eggs.

It is very important for you to notify the school Principal and to advise when appropriate treatment has commenced.

Health regulations require that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until the day after appropriate treatment has started. Please note that this refers only to those children who have live head lice and does not refer to head lice eggs.

Please complete the below form and provide this to Ms Pegg on the return of your child to school.



**Action Taken – Student Head Lice  
Parent/Guardian/Carer Response Form**

To: Ms Pegg

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Student’s Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Level: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that my child should not attend school with untreated head lice.

I used the following recommended treatment for head lice or eggs for my child (insert name of treatment)

\_\_\_\_\_.

Treatment commenced on (insert date) \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

Signature of parent/carer/guardian: ..... Date.....