



Dear parents/guardians,

Consent Form for Head Lice Inspection

Throughout the year the school will be arranging head lice inspections of students.

The management of head lice infestation works best when all children 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.

Before any inspection the procedure will be explained to the child and any questions answered.

In terms 1 and 4 nominated staff authorised by the school or a nurse appointed by local council will conduct the inspection of students and will physically search through each student's hair to see if any lice or eggs are present. Further inspections will occur when necessary.

In cases where head lice are found, the person inspecting the student will inform the student's class teacher and the principal. The child's parent/guardian will be contacted and information given regarding the current treatment processes which according to the best advice do not place students' health at risk. The child will be excluded from school at the conclusion of the school day, and may return to school the day after appropriate treatment has commenced. Where children are frequently identified as having head lice, contact will be made with the parents to provide assistance with treatment and control methods.

The school requires parent consent for a head lice inspection to take place. We ask that parents please complete the section below.

If you have any queries about head lice inspections please contact our First Aid Officers at the school.

Cheryl Macnee
Principal

Head Lice Policy

Rationale

While children are at school many families will have contact with head lice. The information contained here will help to treat and control head lice.

Head lice have been around for many thousands of years. Anyone can get head lice and given the chance head lice move from head to head without discrimination.

People get head lice from direct hair to hair contact with another person who has head lice. This can happen when people play, cuddle or work closely together.

Head lice do not have wings or jumping legs so they cannot fly or jump from head to head. They can only crawl. Students with long hair are strongly encouraged to tie their hair back at school.

Families are encouraged to regularly inspect (preferably once per week) their child/children's hair for lice or eggs using the conditioner and head lice comb method.

Aims

To ensure that parents and guardians accept the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice

To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively at school

To ensure that an effective process for treating head lice is well known and consistently followed

To ensure that parents are well informed about headlice treatments.

Implementation

Staff at EEPS will be made aware of the issues pertaining to head lice control, including the Exclusion Table for Infectious Diseases.

When head lice are detected, the parents of the children are to be notified.

Regular updates will appear in the school newsletter concerning current processes for prevention and treatment of head lice.

EEPS will ensure current treatments and protocols are followed through continuing contact with the Shire of Nillumbik.

An authorised person is one who has been nominated by the principal to conduct head inspections to check for head lice. This person must be acquainted with head check procedures.

- Consent forms for head lice inspection will be given to all new enrolments.
- Consent forms will be organised into classes at the beginning of each year.
- During the first and fourth terms, nurses from the Shire of Nillumbik will conduct head lice inspections of all year levels at EEPS.
- Where head lice are detected on a child at school:
 - An authorised person will conduct head lice inspections on any siblings at the school.
 - Parents will be contacted to advise of presence of headlice
 - The child will be excluded from school at the end of the school day
 - Information will be provided to the parent regarding the current treatment processes which according to best advice do not place students' health at risk.
 - A head lice notification form will be sent home to all children in the grade.

The child is able to return to school the day after treatment has commenced.

An authorised person will conduct a follow up head lice inspection a week after the return of the child to school.

- Where there is a second notification in a grade within a week, a whole grade inspection will be conducted by an authorised person.
- Where children are frequently identified as having head lice, contact will be made with the parents to provide assistance with treatment and control methods.

Evaluation and Review

This policy will be reviewed in line with new regulations.

Last ratified November 2012