

WOODBURY BOSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Headlice Policy

Scope and Application: This policy and related procedures has been developed in consultation with the Governing Body, staff and the Department of Health, and is operational directed. The aim of this policy is to ensure a consistent, coordinated and cooperative approach to managing head lice in the school community. This policy will be regularly reviewed. (*See below for policy review dates*).

Policy Statement

Headlice are a communicable infestation which cause irritation and can impact on comfort and learning. Head lice is a common condition that can be effectively and economically treated in the home.

The school encourages the members of the school community to promptly and effectively treat head lice infestations, so as to maintain the well-being of the children, and to prevent the spread to other members of the community.

When head lice are detected or suspected, the family will be informed, and the child may return to school once treatment has commenced.

If other students or families are being affected by ongoing ineffective management of head lice, the school *may* choose to exclude the student until the head lice are effectively managed.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Parents' responsibilities are:

- to be informed about head lice management by reading the Head Lice information provided by the school, or other information available from the Department of Health or generally in the community;
- to regularly check their child's hair for head lice infestation;
- to treat their child's hair immediately if the child has head lice, using an effective method of treatment;
- to inform the school and other close contacts if their child has a head lice infestation, and to confirm that treatment of their child's hair has commenced;
- to be aware of and follow the school's head lice management policy and procedures.

The School's responsibility is:

- to develop, implement and maintain a head lice management policy and procedures;
- to ensure that parents, staff and children are aware of the school's head lice policy and procedures,
- maintain an information file on head lice, their life cycle and effective methods and treatment
- communicate Head lice information within the school community as appropriate.
- **Whole school synchronised weekend check**
Synchronised weekend head lice checks at home by parents will be promoted through the school newsletter as deemed necessary.
- **Class Head Lice education**
Head lice information is included in class activities where appropriate, for example:
 - personal development – how to identify head lice and comb them out;
 - science - life cycle of the head louse;
 - drama - short, humorous play.
- **Head Lice Resource Parent**
Where possible the School has a Head Lice Resource Parent, who is available to support parents, especially those that are having persistent difficulty removing the head lice.

Head Lice Resource Parents are volunteers who have successfully dealt with the frustrations of treating head lice in their own children. They keep up to date with the latest recommendations from the Department of Health.

Resource Parents **do not** undertake ongoing head lice treatment – that action remains the responsibility of the parents of a child with head lice.

OR:

[Alternately, if there is no Head Lice Resource Parent:]

For parents who have carefully followed the Department of Health's advice, but who have persistent difficulty in removing head lice, further advice is available from the school office or the Department of Health on 9388 4999.

Conditioner and Combing Treatment for Headlice

Using hair conditioner and combing is the most effective way of finding, and treating, head lice. Conditioner and combing can be used for detection and/or treatment. The conditioner stuns the lice for some minutes so they can be easily removed. Conditioner and combing is reasonably inexpensive. It also avoids the use of harsh head lice chemicals.

Technique

1. Untangle dry hair with an ordinary comb.
2. Apply hair condition to dry hair (white conditioner makes it easier to see the lice). Use enough conditioner to thoroughly cover the whole scalp and all hair from roots to tips.
3. Use the ordinary comb to evenly distribute conditioner and divide the hair into four or more sections using hair clips.
4. Change to a metal head lice comb.
5. Start with a section at the back of the head. Place the teeth of the head lice comb against the scalp. Comb the hair from the roots through to the tips.
6. Wipe the comb clean on a tissue after every stroke. In a good light, check for head lice. Adult lice are easier to see – young lice can be difficult to see. A magnifying glass will help. You may see some eggs (nits).
7. Comb each section twice until you have combed the whole head. If the comb becomes clogged, use an old toothbrush, dental floss or pin to remove the head lice or eggs. Continue combing the whole head until all the conditioner is gone.
8. Repeat the conditioner and combing every second day until you find no more head lice for 10 consecutive days. It is important to continue for 10 days to remove all the adult lice and any young lice that hatch from the eggs, before they can reproduce.

(taken from *Staying Healthy in Child Care, 4th Edition*)