

Head Lice Policy

Rationale:

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 a cause of head itch and scratching, which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands; therefore, they need to be controlled.

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.

Implementation:

- Anyone can catch head lice.
- Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They spread from person to person by head to head contact, and may also be spread by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and hats.
- While it is parents who have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children, the school will alert parents of lice when detected.
- Upon enrolment all parents sign a permission for the school to conduct head lice inspections when deemed necessary.
- Consistent with Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009, the principal will ensure that the parents of any child found to have live lice are informed that their child is to be excluded from attending school until appropriate treatment has commenced. Where possible children who have live headlice will be sent home as soon as practicable to minimize any chance of cross contamination and so treatment can begin immediately.
- The child can return to school once treatment has commenced (i.e. most likely the next day).
- When an outbreak of head lice occurs the school will notify other families in the class of the outbreak and ask for all parents to check the child's hair.
- The principal will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice appears throughout the year in the school newsletter, particularly at times of heavy outbreaks.

Prevention of head lice at St Mary MacKillop CPS

- Although responsibility for detecting and treating head lice rests with parents, St Mary MacKillop CPS will make available from time to time, practical advice and support to all families.
- St Mary MacKillop will work collaboratively with parents and the broader school community to implement practices and procedures to prevent and minimise the impact of head lice outbreaks.
- Information about the treatment of headlice can be found [here](#)

Policy review

This policy will be reviewed every two years to take account of any changed technology, legislation, expectations or practices.

The next review date is 2021.