



No. 5218

# Sunbury & Macedon Ranges Specialist School

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Website: [www.smrss.vic.edu.au](http://www.smrss.vic.edu.au)

## HEAD LICE POLICY

### STATEMENT

Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. Probably between 2-3% of primary school children are infested at any one time. 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. 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.

### RATIONALE

- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- To ensure effective processes for treating head lice are well known and consistently followed.
- To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice and their treatment.

### IMPLEMENTATION

- While it is parents who have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children, the school will assist by offering up-to-date information, by offering a screening process, and by alerting parents of lice when detected.
- Parents/guardians should regularly check for lice or eggs in the hair of their child and other house hold members.
- Parents/guardians will notify the school if their child is affected, when treatment commenced and will not send their child to school with untreated head lice.
- The principal will identify specific staff members to carry out head lice inspections (physical examinations) of students head and hair for the presence of head lice.
- The school will ask parents to sign a permission form allowing their child to be inspected by SMRSS specific staff members for the presence of head lice. Only children whose parents have returned the permission form (which forms part of the enrolment process) will be inspected. See attached form 1.
- All children checked or inspected will be provided with a confidential report indicating to the parents the results of the inspection (see attached Form 2), as well as advice on the latest information regarding head lice.

- The school will maintain confidentiality at all times.
- 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 school until the day after treatment has commenced as set out in the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001. School Exclusion Table. Such children will not be sent home during the school day, but will be dismissed as usual. Lice eggs are not grounds for exclusion.
- The principal will also provide parents of children found to have live lice with information about head lice treatment and prevention.
- Upon their return to school, parents of excluded children are to present the signed declaration on Form 2 indicating that appropriate treatment has commenced. All excluded children may undergo another inspection from school trained head lice inspectors upon recommencement of school.
- The principal will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice is available at the school.

## REFERENCES

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/headlice.aspx>

Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009

## EVALUATION

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

**THIS POLICY HAS BEEN RATIFIED BY SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Joanne Nolan.....  
Principal

Amanda Solarino  
President of School Council

Date: 30/11/2016.

Review due: ...2019.....

**FORM 1**

**CONSENT FORM – HEAD LICE INSPECTIONS**

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 stigmatization.

Before any inspections are conducted, staff will explain to all students what is being done and why, and it will be emphasized 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 inspection of students will be conducted by members of our staff who are First Aid trained who have been instructed by the Principal or Assistant Principal to carry out an inspection.

NB: Members of our staff have been trained by the Department of Human Services in the Management of Head Lice Program.

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

In cases where head lice are found, the person inspecting the students will inform the class teacher and the principal. The school will send a written notice home with the child and provide parents with comprehensive advice about the use of safe treatment practices which do not place children's health at risk.

Please note that the law requires that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until appropriate treatment has commenced.

Please sign and return the form to school as soon as possible.

I give / do not give consent for my child .....to participate in the school's head lice inspection program until their exit of the school.

Parent's/Guardian's Full Name.....

Signature of Parent/Guardian.....Date.....



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## FORM 2

### Staff-Managed Head Lice Program – Notification of Treatment

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Today your child was screened for head lice by a staff member as part of the "Staff-Managed Head Lice Program".

Staff found:

No evidence of lice or eggs

Dead lice

Live lice

Louse eggs (nits)

Additional Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_

Under the Health Regulation 2001 children can be excluded from school if found to have live lice or eggs.

**If your child has live lice or eggs, please take care of them with an appropriate treatment. Remember to treat your child's hair again in one week.**

Please return the slip below to school informing the principal of when treatment has occurred and which treatment was used.

Regards,  
Head Lice Program Staff

✂ \_\_\_\_\_

I have treated my child with

\_\_\_\_\_

I am aware that in one week I will need to repeat the treatment.

My child is now eligible to return to school.

Parent / Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_