



St. Anne's

Primary School

60 KNEES ROAD, PARK ORCHARDS, VICTORIA 3114

POLICY: PARENT MANAGED HEAD LICE

RATIONALE:

Head lice cause concern and frustration for parents, teachers and children. 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 amongst the school community.

AIMS:

- To outline roles, responsibilities and expectations of the school community in assisting with treating and controlling head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner

IMPLEMENTATION:

- St Anne's Primary School uses a 'Parent Managed Head Lice Program' recommended by the Victorian Department of Human Services (Infectious Diseases) 2001

Selecting Parent Volunteers

- Intermittently, throughout the school year the Parent Managed Head Lice Coordinator will send out a notice to all parents explaining the Parent Managed Program. The notice will include a section for parents to complete if they wish to participate as a volunteer in the Parent Managed Head Lice program

- The Principal will supervise the ongoing management of the Parent Managed Head Lice Program
- Ideally, the group will have one parent coordinator and a minimum of 12 volunteer parents
- Each new volunteer will have a current 'Working With Children' check prior to commencing their term as a Parent Managed Head Lice Program volunteer
- A parent volunteer may participate for more than one year if they wish
- Volunteers who decide not to continue in the program may do so by informing the Coordinator of the group at any time
- It is ideal if parent volunteers commit themselves to a full school year
- Requests for parent volunteers will be advertised in the school newsletter as required

Training

- Training of volunteers is necessary for consistency of advice offered to the school community and checking of students hair*
- The issue of confidentiality will be an integral part of the training for all volunteers
- All parents volunteering to be part of the Parent Managed Head Lice Program if possible, will be trained together at the commencement of their time as volunteers
- Existing volunteers are encouraged to attend the education sessions to meet the new volunteers and 'update' their knowledge and skills
- The training will include:
 - The cleaning of equipment and inspection area, as per training manual
 - Cleaning of gloves and or hands between children
 - The process of checking hair
 - Documentation procedures
 - Notification procedures
 - Confidentiality

****The coordinator and current volunteers will train new volunteers***

Checking hair

- All families attending St Anne's Primary School are requested to complete, sign and return a 'Consent for Parent Volunteers to Check Students Hair for Head Lice' form for each student attending the school at the beginning of the school year. We will only inspect the heads of children whose parents have given prior consent.
- The check will include teachers and school staff (if they wish)
- We will always respect the wishes of the parents/families/teachers/staff that elect not to participate in a school head lice check

- Additional head lice checks (requested by the Principal) will be carried out in response to ongoing and seemingly uncontrolled 'out breaks' of head lice
- The Head Lice Coordinator will also keep a list of students not to be checked and will provide that information to parent volunteers on checking days
- At the conclusion of a whole school check, the coordinator will give the Principal a list of children who have been found to have lice or nits. This list will be kept confidential between the Principal and coordinator
- The coordinator of the Parent Managed Head Lice Program will document the episodes of head lice checks and the outcomes. No names will be recorded, only classrooms and Year Levels
- The coordinator of the Parent Managed Head Lice Program will liaise with class teachers to inspect student's hair, at a mutually appropriate time
- A routine check of all students', teachers' and staff hair will be carried out once per term (generally in the 2nd week)
- A note will be made of the students who are not at school during inspection and these children will be checked upon their return to the school
- Any students still away at the time of the second check will not be checked
- Students needing treatment will not be followed up if they have returned to school with the 'commenced treatment' note
- Written information regarding treatment failure will be offered to families who have had trouble eradicating the lice
- Support and practical assistance with checking hair at home will also be offered by the Parent Managed Head Lice Program Coordinator
- Children will be discouraged to share such items as combs, brushes and headgear

Notification

- Parents must notify the school office or classroom teacher if they have found live head lice in their child's hair and advise when appropriate treatment has commenced
- Children may return to school only once treatment has commenced
- Head inspection days: A letter will be sent home with all children inspected at the end of the day to inform parents that an inspection has been carried out and what action (if any) needs to be taken. An additional letter for those found to have a live lice will include information on treatment options for live lice and/or nits
- The notice will also inform the parent of any cases of live lice in the class and that they should check their child's hair again and treat if necessary
- Students who were found to have live lice and or nits will need to return to school with a slip signed by their parent, confirming that treatment has commenced

- Students with live lice will not be isolated. They will continue to participate in the day's curriculum

(“While head lice are not considered an agent for infectious disease they are included on the school exclusion table. The exclusion criteria for head lice should be interpreted as:

At the conclusion of the school day, provide the child with a note to take home to inform their parents that they have head lice. Children may return to school after treatment has commenced.....Exclusion criteria for various diseases have differing importance based on the public health risk - the risk is determined by the consequences of contracting a particular condition or disease and the way it is transmitted or passed from person to person. As an example, the risk from measles differs significantly to the risk from head lice”).

Victorian Department of Human services, Health (Infectious diseases) Regulations, 2001.

- The classroom teacher will be notified of any cases of live lice and or nits in their class. The teacher will be able to direct the curriculum for the day to avoid close contact between students
- Children are not to return to school with untreated head lice
- A notice will be sent home with students who have not had hair checks to advise the family of any cases found within their class
- Head lice volunteers will only advise to use safe and recommended practices to treat head lice
- Students will be informed that they need to ensure their hair is treated for head lice prior to returning to the school

Education for the School Community

- The Parent Managed Head Lice Program Coordinator will arrange for interesting facts and educational material to feature in the school's newsletter regularly
- The occasional additional information will be disseminated by the coordinator through-out the school by way of notices and educational resources for students
- An information session for parents will be offered by the Head Lice Coordinator at the beginning of each year
- During October the Parent Managed Head Lice Program Volunteer group will put together an information package to accompany the Prep information package and for new families about to commence school in the subsequent year

Parents will be informed that:

- It is recommended to check for head lice on a weekly or fortnightly basis at home. It is best to include all members of the family and treat as necessary

- Children with long hair are required to attend school with hair tied back

EVALUATION

Evaluation will take place every three years via:

- Teachers comment
- Parents comments
- Head lice parent volunteer comments
- Documentation in relation to 'head lice checks'

This policy was reviewed in 2009

The next review will be in 2012