



# HEAD LICE

## POLICY

### CRESWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL

#### Rationale

While parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, schools also have a role in the management of head lice infections and in providing support for parents/carers and students.

- Anyone can catch head lice.
- Head lice 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.

#### Aims

- To minimise transfer of head lice between members of the school community.
- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- To ensure all students miss a minimal amount of schooling due to head lice infestation.
- To ensure that parents/carers are well informed about head lice treatment.
- To minimise anxiety by acknowledging that most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time.

#### Guidelines:

- Parents/carers have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children. It is recommended that they check their children's hair thoroughly, at least on a weekly basis. The school is not responsible for head lice management, however will assist by offering up-to-date information, a screening process where suitably trained staff are available, and by alerting parents/carers of the presence of head lice when detected.
- The parents/carers of children who do not have consent to conduct head checks when their class is being checked, will be phoned by the office where they may;
  - Give verbal consent to check their child's hair on this occasion or commit to checking their child's hair at home.
- Where a parent/carer or staff member, makes a report of head lice at the school office, the school will firstly send home notes with the children from that grade informing parents of the occurrence of head lice and requesting that they check their children's hair. On the second report for that grade, the school will organise a grade head check where possible.
- A commitment to distribute up-to date information on detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of each year and more frequently if required. ie. Pamphlets will be on display in the front office area and information will be published in the newsletter.
- Parents must NOT send their children to school with untreated head lice. (It should be noted that students may be treated and return to school the next day, and that the presence of eggs in their hair is not cause for exclusion. Parents need to be aware that one treatment is not sufficient to manage the problem. If a child re-attends school with live lice the school may again exclude the child until the live insects have been removed. The parent will be contacted if this happens.)
- Parental permission will be gained for all inspections including those by local government and trained school personnel.
- Notification will be sent to parents of those students found to have eggs.
- Children found to have live lice will be withdrawn from class and parents notified immediately.
- Every effort will be made to ensure confidentiality is maintained following head lice inspections.
  - Upon their return to school, parents/carers of excluded children must present the signed declaration form indicating that appropriate treatment has commenced.

- All children who experience reoccurrence of live head lice will be re-checked by trained staff soon after returning to school to ensure the infestation has been effectively treated.
  - The school will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice appears on the school's website.
  - Concentrate on treating the affected person's head. There is no evidence to suggest that you need to clean the house or the classroom. The only linen that requires changing is the affected person's pillowcase. Wash it in hot water (60 °C) or dry it in a clothes dryer set to warm or hot.
  - Itchiness may not disappear immediately after treatment. Persistent itch without evidence of persistent infection is not a reason to repeat the treatment. There are other reasons why your scalp might feel itchy.
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- Classes may provide activities to give students an understanding of the habits and life-cycle of head lice.

**School Expectations - Parent Participation:**

- Regular inspections (preferably once per week) of their child's or children's hair for lice or eggs.
- Regular inspection of all household members followed by treatment if head lice are detected.
- Upon detection of head lice, notify the school and advise when treatment has commenced.
- Hair that is longer than shoulder length has to be tied back.

**Evaluation:**

- This policy was originally formed, and will be reviewed in consultation with all members of the wider community (all staff, parents, students, and interested members of the community) as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in...

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