



Head Lice Policy

RATIONALE:

Head lice (*pediculus humanus capitis*) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. Probably between 2-3% of primary school students are infested at any one time. While they do not carry or transmit disease, they are the most common cause of head itch and scratching which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands: therefore, they need to be eradicated.

Anyone can catch head lice. Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They can only crawl. They spread from person to person by head to head contact and by sharing personal items such as combs, brushes and head gear such as hats.

While the responsibility for detecting and treating head lice rests primarily with the parents, as a school we are committed to providing practical advice and support.

GOALS:

- To respond to reports of head lice quickly
- 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:

- Parents will be asked to sign a permission form allowing their children to be screened for head lice. This form will be signed at the time of enrolment or the beginning of the school year.
- Any child without a signed permission slip will not be checked.
- Parents will be provided with a letter informing them of the results of the screening and recommended treatment. (see attached letter proformas)
- Children identified with having 'live' lice will be excluded from school until after treatment has been completed.
- The Principal will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice appears throughout the year in the school newsletter.

Re: Circular 017/2005-Headlice Management

Ratified by YWPS School Council on 19/07/2016
To be reviewed in 3 years or as needed