

Kananook Primary School

Head Lice Policy



Rationale:

Head lice continue to cause frustration for some parents, teachers and children. 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.

This school policy is intended to outline roles, responsibilities and expectations of the school community to assist with treating and controlling head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner.

Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice in our school community we will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

This school policy draws on information obtained from the information pamphlet and management guidelines "Scratching for Answers".

Aims:

- 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:

1. It is the expectation of **parents/carers and families** attending Kananook Primary School that you will:
 - a. Check your children's hair for head lice weekly, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method.
 - b. Not allow your child to attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009).
 - c. Regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary.
 - d. Notify the school if your child is affected so that a note can be sent out to all students in that class.
 - e. Tie your child's hair back if it is long.
 - f. Accept advice that appropriate treatment needs to be commenced and treat head lice safely and as recommended.
 - g. Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community around issues of head lice.
 - h. Sign an agreement accepting the terms of the School Head Lice Policy.

2. To support parents/carers and the broader school community to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management **the school** will:
 - a. Distribute up to date and accurate information on the finding, treating and controlling head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of the year or more frequently if required.
 - b. Include information about head lice management in orientation and transition programs for new families/staff attending the school.
 - c. Include information and updates in school newsletters.
 - d. Provide practical advice and maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising or blaming families who are finding it hard to control head lice.
 - e. Be aware of real difficulties some parents may encounter and seek extra support if required.
 - f. Access community educational resources and support, such as primary school nurses, community health centres and local government.
 - g. Follow the recommendations of the School Exclusion Policy of the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009 in that the responsibility to exclude a child from the school rests with the principal or person in charge.
 - h. Only exclude children from school with live insects.
 - i. Accept the advice of parents that appropriate treatment has commenced.
 - j. Encourage children to learn about head lice to help reduce stigma or bullying.
 - k. Ask all families to sign an agreement accepting the conditions of the school's head lice policy.
 - l. Inform parents if head lice is reported or detected in their child's class by sending a note home with every child in the class (or classes if necessary).

Evaluation:

Review the Head Lice Policy as part of the renewal cycle by School Council.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in May 2013.

Kananook Primary School

HEAD LICE AGREEMENT

Please sign and return this slip to the office. Thank you.



I have read and agree to the above conditions of the Kananook Primary School Head Lice Policy:

Child name/s

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Parent/guardian name/s

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Signature of parent/carer/guardian: Date.....