



SCHOOL POLICY - HEAD LICE MANAGEMENT

Rationale

While parents have a sole responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice in their children, Briar Hill Primary School acknowledges the important role it plays in the management of head lice and in providing support for parents/guardians and students.

Aims

- To follow a comprehensive management plan that provides both up to date information and support to families in the treatment of head lice infections.
- To provide parents/guardians with comprehensive advice about the use of safe treatment practices which do not place students health at risk
- To follow DEECD protocols in utilising the services of a head lice inspection and/or treatment service, to check students' hair on an annual basis (with written parent/guardian permission)
- To require parents/guardians to refrain from sending their children to school with untreated, live head lice
- To maintain a register of parent/guardian notifications and follow school process in alerting parents/guardians to the need to be vigilant and thorough
- To exercise sensitivity towards this issue and to avoid any stigmatisation by maintaining student confidentiality.

Implementation

- Provide regular, up to date information to parents about head lice, and the prevention and treatment of infestations, through the newsletter and other notices
- Inform parents of the need for regular hair checks and treatments when necessary
- Inform parents/guardians of the procedures that BHPS has in place to support the control of head lice infections
- Request parent/guardian consent (annually) to allow a head lice inspection and/or treatment service to check students' hair
- Require parents/guardians to collect students, who are determined through inspection, to have head lice

- Require parents/guardians to treat student's hair and complete and sign treatment slip to return to school
- Request parents/guardians notify the school when their child/ren have head lice at other times (In accordance with the Health Infectious Disease Regulations 2001)
- Inform all parents/guardians in classes when a notification is received by one or more parents, requesting that they check their child's hair and treat if necessary, returning the signed acknowledgement slip to school once carried out
- Maintain confidentiality following notifications from parents/guardians and hair inspections by authorised personnel
- Provide classroom activities to give students an understanding of the habits and life cycle of head lice in order to minimise the stigmatisation of students and their families
- Staff are authorised by the principal to visually check a student's hair for the presence of head lice, when it is suspected that head lice may be present. No physical contact with the student must occur during visual checks.

Assessment and Evaluation

The Principal will constantly monitor the effectiveness of the BHPS Head Lice Policy and implement school procedures required.

This policy will be revised 3 years after it is ratified by the School Council. A review may be triggered in advance of this date by; written request to the School Council made by a member of the school community or a resolution of School Council.

References

DEECD School Policy & Advisory Guide
Head Lice Management Toolkit

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

Ratification

This policy was ratified by the School Council on **Monday, 22 February, 2014**

Signature of School Council President: Lisa Watson (*Signature provided*)

Signed: _____ Date: _____