

**CASTLEMAINE NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**HEAD LICE POLICY 2019-2022**

**RATIONALE**

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

Head lice are not considered an agent for infectious disease however they are included on the school exclusion table. Students with Head Lice are not permitted to return to school until treatment has commenced.

**AIM**

To inform the parents and staff of their roles and responsibilities in the treatment of head lice.

**GUIDELINES**

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

**IMPLEMENTATION**

**It is the expectation and responsibility of parents/carers and families attending this school that:**

1. Children's hair will be checked for head lice on a regular basis, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method;
2. That children do not attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with Health Infectious Diseases Regulations 2001);
3. Household members will be regularly inspected and treated if necessary;
4. Parents/Carers will notify the school if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced (in accordance with Health Infectious Disease Regulations 2001);
5. A sympathetic attitude and avoidance of stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures will be maintained;
6. Actions when dealing with members of the school and broader community especially around issues of head lice will be responsible and respectful;

**To support parents/carers and the broader school community to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management the school will undertake to:**

1. Distribute up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of the year or more frequently if required.
2. Include information and updates in school newsletters.
3. Include annual head lice education for staff and students in Term One.
4. Provide practical advice and maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures.

5. Access community educational resources and support.
6. Abide by the recommendations of the School Exclusion Policy of the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001 in that the responsibility to exclude a child from the school rests with the principal or person in charge, and only exclude children with live insects from school.
7. Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community especially around issues of head lice.

**SUGGESTED RESOURCE:**

**Better Health Channel:**

<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/ConditionsAndTreatments/head-lice-nits>

**EVALUATION**

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

**This policy was reviewed and ratified by School Council 2019**

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(Principal)

(President of School Council)

**Review Cycle Date: 2022**