

**PURPOSE:**

- To outline roles, responsibilities and expectations of the school community with treating and controlling head lice.

**POLICY GUIDELINES**

- Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice the school will assist with the management of outbreaks and the prevention of spread in a supportive and discreet manner.
- Head lice infestations are a common occurrence in schools and at some stage during your child's time at school they may have an infestation or be in a class which has an outbreak.
- The school will provide up to date education to parents on how to detect and treat head lice when an outbreak occurs and during the year.
- The school has a commitment to help reduce stigma and maintain confidentiality during an outbreak and after head lice inspections.

**Documents supporting this document:**

- Department of Human Services - 'Scratching for Answers' - Information Kit;
- Department of Human Services Infectious Diseases Regulations 2001;
- [Http/www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice); and
- Department of dermatology, St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne- "Head lice, an education program for primary schools'.

**POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

- Consent for head lice checks will be included in the enrolment forms for parents to sign if they wish their child's hair to be checked for head lice.
- In the event of large outbreaks of head lice infestations in the school, head lice checks will be done on all students that we have permission for. Parents will be informed prior to this occurring.
- Head lice checks will be made by the school's Nurse or First Aid Officer in sickbay or an appropriate designated area to ensure hygiene and privacy. The school Nurse or First aid Officer will be available to give further information and support as required.
- The School requires that parents refrain from sending their children to school with untreated head lice. When a student has been detected with head lice at school, parents will be informed by telephone and a request made that they treat the infestation that evening and before allowing their child to return to school. ( School Exclusion Policy –Infectious Diseases Regulations 2001).
- When the school is notified by a parent that their child has head lice, a note informing parents of an outbreak in their child's class and an information sheet on how to detect and treat head lice infestations will be sent home with each student.
- Infestations should be treated as soon as possible after detection and prior to the student returning to school. Follow up treatments should be carried out according to treatment product instructions. Information on different methods of treatment and on different products will be available from the school Nurse or local Pharmacy.
- The school will respect parent's wishes when managing head lice outbreaks.

# KEW EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL

## HEAD LICE POLICY

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### Parents are expected to:

- Ensure that the School is aware of their wishes regarding head lice checks;
- Be vigilant in checking their child's hair weekly for signs of head lice infestation;
- Inform the school if head lice is detected in their child's hair;
- If head lice is detected ensure that treatment has commenced before their child returns to school and that follow up treatments and checks occur; and
- Follow the school's recommendations when head lice outbreaks occur in their child's class.

### EVALUATION

- The Head Lice policy will be reviewed on a cyclical basis in accordance with the School Council Policy review schedule or as required.

Policy Area:  
Student Wellbeing

Ratified School Council:  
June 2014

Next Review:  
2018

