



# Bethanga Primary School

## Headlice Policy

### Rationale

Headlice are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. It is likely that all children will have at least one case of head lice during their school years. Head lice do not carry or transmit disease. However, they are a cause of head itching and scratching which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands therefore they need to be controlled.

While parents/guardians have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, schools also have a role in the management of head lice infestations and in providing support for parents/guardians and students,

### Aim

- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively
- To ensure parents are well informed about head lice and treatment.
- To support teacher conducted inspections.

### Implementation

1. Parents are requested to notify the school if they find their children are affected by head lice. Information given will remain confidential.
2. When an outbreak occurs, we will put information in the newsletter about effective methods of treatment of head lice.
3. The Principal will ensure staff are provided with professional development regarding head lice.
4. Staff will then be authorised to carry out visual checks as well as physical examinations (combing through hair) for the presence of head lice and eggs.
5. If it is suspected that a student may have head lice, an inspection will be conducted by the teacher.
6. Where cases of live lice or eggs are discovered by a staff member through inspection or visual sighting:
  - a. Parents will be notified via phone call.
  - b. The children will be excluded from classes until the day after appropriate treatment.
  - c. Parents will be required to phone the school or send a note confirming that treatment has occurred.
  - d. If students return to school prior to treatment commencing, parents will be called to come and collect students.
7. Letters will be sent home to all families where a case of head lice has been detected. Parents will be expected to check their child's hair at home.
8. In cases of repeat infestations families will be referred to the Community nurse or a medical practitioner at the discretion of the principal.
9. The school information booklet will contain information regarding the management of head lice infestation, a standard agreement to check children's hair regularly and a copy of this policy.
10. Parents are required to complete and return a signed copy of the Parent Consent form regarding head lice checks (valid for the duration of their child's enrolment unless withdrawn)

This policy was last ratified by Bethanga Primary School Council in May 2017