

# Head Lice Statement

Head lice continue to cause concern and frustration for parents, teachers and children. This school statement 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/carers 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.

**It is the expectation of parents/carers and families attending the College that:**

- Children's hair will be checked for head lice regularly, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method.
- That your child does not attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with Health Infectious Diseases Regulations 2001).
- 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).
- Children with long hair will attend school with hair tied back.
- Use only safe and recommended practices to treat head lice.
- Maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures.
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community especially around issues of head lice.

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

- Distribute up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff when required.
- Include information and updates in school newsletters from time to time.
- Provide practical advice and maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures.
- 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.
- Accept the advice of parents that appropriate treatment has commenced.

- Encourage children to learn about head lice so as to help remove any stigma or ‘bullying’ associated with the issue.
- Be aware of real difficulties some parents may encounter and seek extra support if required.
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community especially around issues of Head lice.
- Continue to seek opportunities to increase our collective understanding of and response to managing head lice.
- Let parents know in a respectful, responsible and sympathetic way if live head lice or nits have been noticed on their child’s head so that the necessary treatment can commence.
- Inform parents if a staff member suspects head lice and request parents to check the child as soon as possible and treat any head lice present.