



Elwood Primary School No 3942

Scott Street Elwood 3184
Telephone 9531 2762 Fax 9531 5497

PROGRAM: HEALTH - HEAD LICE

PURPOSE

1. To minimise the incidence of head lice in our school community.
2. To maintain a healthy, pleasant environment for staff, students and all visitors.
3. To educate the school community about prevention and treatment.

GUIDELINES

1. Head lice are recognised as a community issue.
2. The issue is openly discussed.
3. The responsibility of detecting and treating head lice rests primarily with the parents.
4. Parents are given practical advice and support.
5. No stigma is attached to the issue.
6. Constant monitoring and action is required.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. A program of education including items in the newsletter is maintained.
2. A permission form to have students' hair checked by school nurse is sent home at the beginning of each year or on enrolment for the duration of the student's schooling.
3. Whole school head checks are conducted when required.
4. The school follows a "no hat sharing" protocol.
5. School nurse inspects the hair of staff and students. Privacy is maintained and all students, including those with live lice, are then returned to class.
6. Parents are contacted immediately to inform them that treatment is necessary and requesting that they collect the student as soon as possible.
7. Initial treatment, and follow up treatment is the responsibility of the family.
8. When treatment has commenced, the student can return to school.
9. School nurse will recheck the student's hair one week after initial notification of eggs or live lice.
10. Head Lice Notification forms are sent home with every student in a grade when the school is advised of confirmed case(s) in that grade. If a student is found to have eggs or live lice, the form includes a return slip which confirms treatment has commenced and follow up will be done.

RESOURCES

1. School nurse
2. Pamphlets from the Department of Health – "Treating and Controlling Head Lice."
3. Head Lice- scratching for answers? Website for further information
www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/

REVIEW

In 2017 or when Government resources are available.

Policy History

Version Approval Date:	Summary of changes:	Next Review:
September 2010	Review	3 year cycle or as needed
November 2014	Extensive review	3 year cycle or as needed