



## Head Lice Policy

### Information

Head lice are tiny insect parasites that live on the human head feeding on the scalp several times a day. Head lice reproduce by laying eggs (nits) on the hair shaft close to the scalp.

Head lice spread through direct head to head contact with infested people.

Signs of head lice include:

- Itchy scalp as skin reacts to saliva of lice
- Moving head lice
- Eggs attached to the hair shaft (newly laid eggs are grey/white and about the size of a grain of salt) especially behind the ears and at the nape of the neck.

The school has information on head lice along with the treatment and prevention of infestation for interested people and it will be included in the parent information pack and also a newsletter each year.

Checking children's hair regularly and tying long hair back are to be encouraged to prevent infestation.

### Checking for Head Lice

The principal can request for staff members to check student's hair for lice. All students will be checked for head lice at least once a term.

### Procedures if Head Lice is found

- Parents of students with head lice will be asked to collect their child and treat the hair for infestation as soon as possible. If student needs to remain at school teachers will ensure there is no head to head contact with other students.
- It is expected all lice and eggs will be removed before the student returns to school and the student's hair is will be checked vigilantly every day for 10 days after initial treatment.
- When the student returns to school they will be checked again and parents/caregivers will be informed if there is any evidence of further lice or eggs.
- All parents will be informed if any student in the school has head lice so they can check their child/ren's hair regularly and treat if required.
- All students will be checked for Head Lice in another 10 days.

