



San Remo Primary School Head lice Policy

Rationale:

Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. Probably between 2-3% of primary school children are infested at any one time. While they do not carry or transmit disease, they are a cause of head itch and scratching, which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands; therefore, they need to be controlled.

Aims:

- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- To ensure effective processes for treating head lice are well known and consistently followed.
- To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice and their treatment.

Implementation:

- Anyone can catch head lice. Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They spread from person to person by head to head contact, and may also be spread by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and hats.
- While it is parents who have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children, the school will assist by offering up-to-date information, by offering a screening process, and by alerting parents of lice when detected.
- The school principal will ensure all teachers and aides are provided with professional development regarding head lice, who will then be authorised to carry out visual checks of students heads for head lice (observations without touching of the students head or hair). The principal will also identify specific staff members to carry out head lice inspections (physical examinations) of students head and hair for the presence of head lice.
- The school will ask parents to sign a permission form allowing their children to be inspected by our specific staff members for the presence of head lice. Only children whose parents have returned the permission form will be inspected, however, all students may be visually checked. (see Attached).
- All children inspected will be provided with a confidential report indicating to parents the results of the inspection (see Attached), as well as advice on the latest information regarding head lice.
- Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, the principal will ensure that the parents of any child found to have live lice are informed that their child is to be excluded from attending school until appropriate treatment has commenced.
- The principal will also provide parents of children found to have live lice with information about head lice treatment and prevention.
- The principal will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice appears throughout the year in the school newsletter, particularly at times of heavy infestations.

This head lice policy has been developed in accordance with DEECD Guidelines which can be accessed at; <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/health/headlice/default.htm>

Endorsed by School Council as amended policy at meeting on _____ 2015

Signed: _____ Andre Chiardia (SC President)
_____ Sharyne Munday (Principal)



HEADLICE INSPECTIONS PERMISSION FORM.

Throughout the year, the school will be arranging head lice inspections of students.

The management of head lice infestation works best when all children are involved in our screening program.

The school is aware that this can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining student confidentiality and avoiding stigmatisation.

The inspection of students will be conducted by a staff member or suitable persons appointed by the Principal. Those conducting the inspections will physically search through each student's hair to see if any lice or eggs are present.

All children will receive notices following headlice inspections and the student's class teacher and the principal will also be informed. The school will send a written notice home with the child and provide parents with comprehensive advice about the use of safe treatment practices which do not place children's health at risk.

Please note that the law requires that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until appropriate treatment has commenced.

Name(s) of Child/Children attending the school:
.....

I hereby give my consent for the above-named children to participate in the school's head lice inspection program for the remainder of this year.

Parent's/Guardian's Full Name:

Signature Date:



San Remo Primary head lice check – _____ 2015

PARENT NOTIFICATION

If every child receives a letter, then confidentiality is maintained for all students, regardless of screening results.

Child's name: _____ Grade: _____

Today your child was screened by _____ (Registered Nurse) for head lice, and was found to have the following:

- Live lice
- Dead lice
- Louse eggs
- No evidence of lice or eggs found

If live lice, dead lice or louse eggs have been detected in your child's hair please treat your child appropriately by following the attached information sheet on 'Management and treatment of head lice'.

Please return the slip below when your child returns to school informing the principal when treatment has occurred.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Thank you for partaking in this community approach to head lice control.

Sharyne Munday
Principal

head lice check – _____ 2015

NOTIFICATION OF TREATMENT

Child's name: _____ Grade: _____

My child was screened on _____ 2015 as part of the head lice program and was found to have live lice and/or eggs.

I have treated my child with _____ and they will be returning to school today.

Parents names (Please print) _____
Parent signature Date ___/___/___