

VICTORIA PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Head Lice Policy

Scope and Application: This policy has been developed in consultation with the Governing Body, staff and the Department of Health, and is operational directed. The aim of this policy is to ensure a consistent, coordinated and cooperative approach to managing head lice in the school community.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Parents' responsibilities are:

- to be informed about head lice management by reading the Department of Health's Head Lice fact sheet or other information available in the community and as provided by the school;
- to regularly check their child's hair for head lice infestation;
- to treat their child's hair immediately if the child has head lice, using the information in the fact sheet;
- to inform the school and other close contacts if their child has a head lice infestation, and to confirm that treatment of their child's hair has commenced;
- to be aware of and follow the school's head lice management policy.

The School's responsibility is:

- to develop, implement and maintain a head lice management policy;
- to ensure that parents, staff and children are aware of the school's head lice policy, and that parents are provided with a copy of the Department of Health's Head lice fact sheet or other information as appropriate.

What Happens When A Child Is Found To Have Head Lice?

The School undertakes the following steps to ensure that a clearly defined process is followed when a child is found to have head lice:

- The student is given a brief, age-appropriate explanation about the head lice.

- A phone call will be made to the parent/caregiver to advise them that their child has head lice. The parent/caregiver will be asked to collect their child from school to take home and be treated. Information regarding treatment will be provided.
- If the parent/caregiver cannot be contacted, A Letter to Parents of a Child Found to have Head Lice is sent home with the student at the end of the day.
The letter informs the parents that their child has head lice and advises them that, as required by the School Education Act 1999, the child must commence head lice treatment before returning to school. A copy of the Department of Health's Head Lice Fact Sheet will be provided upon request and 'How to check effectively for head lice' will be printed on the reverse of the letter.
- Parents of the other students in the class are sent an information letter on the same day, asking them to check their child's hair for head lice and advising them how to do this effectively,.
- Ongoing and recurring problems with head lice will be discussed with parents/caregivers, and the offer of assistance from the school nurse will be made.

Additional Key Points

Hairstyles

- Students (female or male) with long hair should wear it tied back, braided and/or pinned

Recommended treatments

- The School advises parents to read the Department of Health's Head Lice Fact Sheet available, from the school office. The 10-Day Hair Conditioner Treatment is the Department's preferred treatment. However, parents who wish to use insecticide treatment should do so according to the Department's instructions in the Head Lice Fact Sheet, as labelling on some head lice products may be unclear or even inaccurate.