Scoresby Primary School

Head Lice Policy

Purpose
To provide support for parents in the management of head lice infections whilst acknowledging that parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice. The school acknowledges that head lice are a cyclic occurrence.

Objectives
- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- To ensure that the school’s role in the management of head lice is communicated to the school community.
- To provide all members of the school community with information about head lice and their treatment.

Guidelines for Implementation
- Permission for hair inspections for children is covered in our multi-permission form.
- The school will nominate head lice resource / support personnel whom parents can contact at the school.
- The school will authorize an appropriate person to be available to conduct head checks when necessary.
- The distribution of up to date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to the school community will occur throughout the year, particularly at times of heavy outbreaks.
- Teachers or staff members suspecting that a student has head lice are to report their concerns to the head lice resource / support personnel / Assistant Principal, who will organise the authorized officer to carry out the necessary inspections. Staff members are not permitted to search a student’s hair, inspect for head lice or diagnose a case of head lice.
- Upon positive identification of live head lice, the nominated head lice resource / support personnel / Assistant Principal will ensure that the parents of any infected student will be provided with a proforma letter of notification. It will incorporate information about head lice treatment and prevention and that their child is to be excluded from attending school in accordance with the health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1990 until the student has been treated and have a detachable slip at the bottom, asking parents to indicate the treatment used and when it was commenced. Parents need to be aware that a child may return to school with eggs in the hair but if live lice are present the child may again need to be excluded until live insects have been removed.
- The school is committed to help reduce the stigma and maintain confidentiality following head lice inspections, therefore an alert letter will be given to all students involved.

Approved: August 2010
To be Reviewed: 2013