Westgrove 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.
• 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.

Aims:

• To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
• To ensure that an effective process for treating head lice is well known and consistently followed.
• To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice treatment.
• To ensure all students miss a minimal amount of schooling due to head lice infestation

Guidelines:

• Parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children and it is recommended that they check their children’s hair thoroughly, at least on a weekly basis. The school is not responsible for head lice management, however will assist by offering up-to-date information, a screening process where suitably trained staff are available, and by alerting parents of the presence of head lice when detected.
• The school will train designated staff members in the detection of head lice.
• The school will ask parents to give signed consent on enrolment for their children to be screened by our trained personnel for the presence of head lice.
• The parents of children who do not have consent to conduct head checks when their class is being checked, will be phoned by the office where they may
  • Give verbal consent to check their child’s hair on this occasion
  • Collect their child from school and make alternative arrangements for their child to be cleared of head lice
• Whole classes are checked at any one time, children are not checked singularly
• Where a parent makes a report of head lice at the school office, the school will firstly send home notes with the children from that grade informing parents of the occurrence of head lice and requesting that they check their children’s hair. On the second report for that grade, the school will organise a grade head check as soon as practical
• Where a staff member makes a head lice report, the grade will be checked as soon as practical
• Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, the school will ensure that the parents of any child found to have live head lice, are informed that their child is to be excluded from attending school until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced.
• Upon their return to school, parents of excluded children must present the signed declaration form indicating that appropriate treatment has commenced.
• All children who experience reoccurrence of live head lice will be re-checked by trained staff soon after returning to school to ensure the infestation has been effectively treated.
• The school 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 outbreaks.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on 10th September 2013
To be Reviewed in 2016
Your child was checked today by our trained staff at school for the presence of head lice.

The results of the check are:

- No lice or eggs detected.
- Dead eggs were found.
- Live eggs were found.
- Live lice were found.

Therefore the following action is required:

- No action required.
- Remove dead eggs
- Child’s hair must be treated to kill and remove all live lice and eggs

Please Note: All children who experience reoccurrence of live lice/eggs will be re-checked by trained staff soon after returning to school to ensure the infestation has been effectively treated.

Regards

Lila Gray
Principal

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WESTGROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL
HEAD LICE TREATMENT REPLY SLIP

If your child has been detected with live lice, this reply slip must be returned to the school office at the same time that your child returns to school.

- I have treated my child’s head to kill and remove all the live lice and eggs.
- I would like to receive further information on how to check and remove head lice and eggs.

Child’s Name:............................................. Parent Signature:.............................................

Child’s Class:.............................................