



WESTGROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL **HEAD LICE POLICY**

While parents/carers have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, Westgrove PS also has a role in the management of head lice infections and in providing support for parents/carers and students.

Rationale:

- Head lice are small, wingless insects that live, breed and feed on the human scalp. They do not generally carry or transmit disease.
- Anyone can catch head lice.
- Head lice 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/carers are well informed about head lice treatment.
- To ensure all students miss a minimal amount of schooling due to head lice infestation

Guidelines:

- Parents/carers have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children. 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/carers 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/carers to give signed consent on enrolment for their children, to be screened by our trained personnel for the presence of head lice.
- The parents/carers 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/carer or staff member, 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 where possible.
- The school will ensure that the parents/carers of any child found to have live head lice, are informed. According to the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009, children with untreated head lice are not permitted to attend schools or children's service centres. However, children are able to attend school the day after treatment has started, even if there are still some eggs present
- Upon their return to school, parents/carers 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 on the school's website.

- *If your family has head lice, tell anyone who has had head-to-head contact with them, so that they can check and treat their family if needed. There is no need to treat the whole family, unless they also have head lice.*
- *Concentrate on treating the affected person's head. There is no evidence to suggest that you need to clean the house or the classroom. The only linen that requires changing is the affected person's pillowcase. Wash it in hot water (60 °C) or dry it in a clothes dryer set to warm or hot.*
- *Itchiness may not disappear immediately after treatment. Persistent itch without evidence of persistent infection is not a reason to repeat the treatment. There are other reasons why your scalp might feel itchy.*

This policy was last ratified by School Council on 16th May 2017
To be Reviewed in 2020

WESTGROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

HEAD LICE CHECK REPORT

DATE :

NAME :

Today at school, your child was checked by our trained staff 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

Tami-Jo Richter
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's Signature:.....

Child's Class: