



Carlton Gardens **Primary School Head** **Lice Policy**

Authorisation Date:
2010
Review Date: June
2012

Rationale

Carlton Gardens Primary School recognises that parents/guardians have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, however we believe that the school has a role in the management of head lice infestations and in providing support for the parents/guardians and students. This Head Lice Policy focuses on the management of head lice infestations at the school and support for the families involved. Carlton Gardens Primary School acknowledges that most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time and that it is important for the school to assist families in managing this problem. Minimising the anxiety for families and students is an important tenet of the policy.

Implementation

A comprehensive management plan that incorporates the following:

1. A commitment to distribute up-to-date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents/guardians and staff at the beginning of every year and more frequently if required (available from website <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/>).
2. The nomination of a head lice resource/support person (parent/guardian or staff member) who parents/guardians can contact at the school at nominated times.
3. It is required that parents/guardians refrain from sending their children to school with untreated head lice. (It should be noted that students may be treated one evening and return to school the next day and that the presence of eggs in the hair is not cause for exclusion. Parents/guardians need to be aware that one treatment is not sufficient to manage the problem. If a student re-attends school with live head lice the school may again exclude the student until the live insects have been removed.)
4. Parents are to sign a permission form allowing school staff to complete head lice checks on their child. Found at link http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/resources_pages/school.htm
5. All notices will be from the above link and in the language which is spoken at home.
6. Prior to beginning head checks, staff will present classroom activities to give students an understanding of the habits and life-cycle of head lice in order to minimise the incidence of stigmatisation of particular students and families.
7. A pro forma letter of notification to parents/guardians of those students found to have head lice, which could incorporate a detachable slip at the bottom, asking parents/guardians to indicate the treatment used and when it commenced.
8. A commitment to help reduce stigma and maintain confidentiality following head lice inspections, e.g. it is recommended that a letter be given to all students involved in inspections, not just those found to have head lice.
9. Training of appropriate school personnel in detection and management of head lice at the school level.

Parents are required to:

1. Regular (preferably once per week) inspection of their child/children's hair for lice or lice eggs (using conditioner and a head lice comb is the most effective method).
2. Regular inspection of all household members followed by treatment if head lice are detected.
3. Upon detection of head lice, notify the school and advise when treatment has commenced.