

POLICY - July 2020



LILYDALE HEIGHTS
COLLEGE

HEAD LICE

Review: 2023

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

Victorian government schools are child safe environments. Lilydale Heights College actively promote the safety and wellbeing of all students, and all school staff are committed to protecting students from abuse or harm in the school environment, in accordance with their legal obligations including child safe standards. All schools have a Child Safety Code of Conduct consistent with the Department's exemplar available at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/protect/Pages/chilsafestandards.aspx>

RATIONALE:

Head Lice (Pediculosis) are tiny insects that:

- live on the human scalp where they feed and breed;
- do not carry or transmit disease, and
- are a common cause of head itch/scratching that can lead to infection/swollen lymph glands.

Therefore, they need to be eradicated.

Lilydale Heights College acknowledges that, **while Parents/Guardians have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice**, schools have a role in the management of head lice infections and in providing support for Parents / Guardians and students, as most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time.

PURPOSE:

- To ensure a consistent approach is established and implemented to manage head lice detection/treatment/control.
- To define clear roles for the College and Parents/Guardians in the management of head lice detection/treatment/control.
- To promote a healthy and safe College environment for students and staff.

AIMS:

- Provide procedures for College staff to follow when head lice are suspected.
- Have clear expectations of Parents/Guardians.
- Work towards gaining Parent/Guardian support to minimise cross infection.
- Commitment to provide resources and referral information.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- Parents / Guardians will inspect their children's hair regularly. Parents are to refrain from sending their children to school with untreated head lice. If head lice are detected and in accordance with School Exclusion Policy of the Health (Infectious Disease) Regulations 2001 (see attachment), treatment of the head lice must take place prior to the children returning to school.
- Parents/Guardians will notify the First Aid Co-ordinator of any detected cases.
- First Aid Coordinator on learning of head lice case/s will distribute a general alert to fellow class members, when more than one case in a specific home group is detected, including an information sheet on current head lice treatment procedures.
- If College staff suspect a student has head lice, measures will be taken to minimise cross infection. Parents will be contacted and given the option to collect their child for inspection and to take the child home to commence appropriate treatment.

- Parent consent is required for any physical inspection without this visual inspection is only permitted.
- The College will have available information, resources and referral sources for head lice detection/treatment/control.
- Staff will maintain confidentiality and sensitivity when dealing with members of the school community.

There is no statutory requirement (under the Health Act 1958 or Health [Infectious Diseases] Regulations 2001 to obtain consent for head lice inspections. The Department of Education has advised schools that Parental consent is required.

RESOURCES:

- Financial resources allocated under the First Aid sector of the global budget and College Council allocation of funds will be utilised in achieving the goals of this policy.

REVIEW CYCLE AND EVALUATION

This policy was last ratified by Policy & Planning in....	July 2020
This policy was last ratified by School Council in....	August 2020