



# WARRAGUL NORTH 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 the most common cause of head itch and scratching which may lead to infection; therefore, they need to be eradicated. Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They spread from person to person by close personal contact.

### **Summary**

- Primary responsibility for the control of head lice lies with individuals, families and public health experts. However, schools can assist with controlling and preventing head lice.
- When a student is identified with live head lice, schools must provide the student with a note to take home to inform their parent/carer that their child has head lice and exclude the student from school until after treatment has commenced.
- Principals must alert parents or carers of an infestation and use discretion to avoid identifying individuals when informing the school community.
- Schools are not required to conduct visual head lice checks but in the event that they decide to, parental consent is required if the student is physically examined.

### **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 and ongoing awareness.
- To ensure that school community members (parents, guardians, teachers) understand that the responsibility of detection and treatment of head lice rests primarily with parents.

### **Implementation:**

Treatment and control of head lice will be an on-going subject for the newsletter.

Once a staff member or parent notifies the office of a suspected case of head lice, a notice will be sent home informing parents of children in the grade to check their children.

Parent/ guardians of children with head lice will be notified and students will be allowed to return to school once the parents/guardians notify the school that the children have been treated. Shoulder length hair or longer is to be tied back.

### **Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four-year review cycle.