

Rationale

Hazel Glen College recognises the importance of having a well-informed community with regards to the strategies to manage head lice.

Aims

To minimise outbreaks of head lice at the College.

Definition

Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects, which live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. While they do not carry or transmit disease, they are easily communicable. Whilst often the carrier shows no symptoms, they are a common cause of itchy scalp and may lead to infection.

Implementation

1. It is expected that parents/guardians and families attending this College will:

- 1.1. Not allow their child to attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009)
- 1.2. Regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary
- 1.3. Tie their child's hair back if it is longer than shoulder length
- 1.4. Maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising or blaming families who are finding it hard to control head lice
- 1.5. Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the College and broader community around issues of head lice

2. To support parents/guardians and the broader College community to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management the school will:

- 2.1. Issue an alert notice informing families when a case of head lice is confirmed (See Head Lice Management link)
- 2.2. Distribute up to date and accurate information on the finding, treating and controlling of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of the year or more frequently if required
- 2.3. Provide practical advice and maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising or blaming families who are finding it hard to control head lice
- 2.4. Access community and government resources for guidance and best practice.
- 2.5. Only exclude children infected with live insects
- 2.6. Choose to undertake proactive inspections from time to time, this will be completed by staff delegated by the principal

3. General

- 3.1. There is no requirement for any school to undertake head lice inspection programs however those that do need to consider the following as additions to a school head lice policy:
- a) Ensure that any person employed by the school, or volunteering, to undertake head lice inspections will adhere to the College policy, Department of Health information and maintain confidentiality
 - b) The responsibility to exclude a child from the College rests with the principal, assistant principals or heads of school
 - c) Any student may be visually checked for the presence of head lice or lice eggs, by staff delegated by the principal
 - d) Develop a generic/blanket consent form, which parents sign at commencement of enrolment
 - e) Include teachers and College staff in inspection

Related Policies / Documents

Head Lice Inspection Consent

Head Lice Regulations

Head Lice letter

Scratching for Answers? Fact Sheet -

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Documents/Scratching%20for%20Answers.pdf>

Head Lice Management -

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/Pages/headlice.aspx>

Evaluation

This policy was created in term 4 of 2016

This policy will be reviewed as part of the College's annual review cycle