

SCHOOL NO. 4401 – KATANDRA WEST

Policy Statement: MANAGEMENT - 765 Head Lice
 765 - HEAD LICE

Responsibility: Principal

This Policy was last ratified by School Council in 2013.

1. **PURPOSE:**

In order to respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively, we shall ensure that an efficient process for treating head lice is well known and consistently followed. Parents and Guardians are to be well informed about head lice treatment.

2. **GUIDELINES:**

- 2.1 Anyone can catch head lice.
- 2.2 Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They spread from person to person by head to head contact, and by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and head gear such as hats.
- 2.3 While it is Parents who have the primary responsibility of the detection and treatment of head lice on their children, the school will assist by offering up-to-date information, by offering a screening process, and by alerting Parents of children with head lice when detected.
- 2.4 The school will organise to have some volunteer Personnel, trained by the DEECD Services in the detection of head lice.
- 2.5 The school will ask Parents to sign a permission form allowing their children to be screened by our trained personnel for the presence of head lice.
- 2.6 All children screened will be provided with a confidential report indicating to Parents the results of the screening.
- 2.7 Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001 the Principal will ensure that the Parents of any child found to have live lice are informed as soon as possible that their child is to be excluded from attending school until the day after the appropriate treatment has commenced. If eggs are present Parents will be informed.
- 2.8 The Principal will also provide Parents of children found to have live lice with information about head lice treatment and prevention.
- 2.9 The Principal will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice appears throughout the year in the School Newsletter, particularly at times of heavy outbreaks.
- 2.10 The Principal, in consultation with School Council, will be able to vary this Policy if circumstances require it.

A management plan to be implemented incorporating the following arrangements.

1. Clear protocols will be outlined to parents annually (and with new enrolments) and written permission obtained from parents on the enrolment form and annual 'collection of information' form to enable inspections to be carried out.
2. Where there is deemed to be a need a whole school head lice check will be carried out by two teams of parents. Parent volunteers will be trained specifically in detection and management of head lice, with an emphasis on confidentiality and the sensitive nature of dealing with students identified as having head lice. The Principal will oversee this process.
3. Children identified as having head lice or evidence of eggs will receive a note to inform their parents of the need for treatment. All students will receive a note informing parents that an inspection has been carried out. Where parents have not consented to a head lice check, a note will be sent home to ask that they carry out the appropriate check themselves and report back their findings to the Principal.