

Jells Park Primary School Head Lice Policy

Purpose

While parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, schools have an important role in the management of head lice infections and in providing support for parents/guardians and students.

Guidelines

- To provide information to the school community about head lice, their life-cycle and preferred habitat and the current effective methods to control and eliminate infestations.
- To manage individual infestations by adhering to clearly stated and uniform procedures.
- To minimise school community anxiety by acknowledging that most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time.

Implementation

- Information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice will be sent to all school families and staff electronically at the beginning of each school year and as required during the year. Information is also available from website <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/> This website will be published in the School Newsletter.

The following advice will be included in the annual notice:

- Regular (preferably once per week) inspection of child/children's hair for lice or lice eggs should be carried out. An application of hair conditioner on dry hair and a head lice comb is a most effective method of lice egg removal.
 - Regular inspection of all household members, followed by treatment if head lice are detected.
 - Should head lice be detected, notify the School Office and advise when treatment was commenced.
- It is a requirement 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.)
 - A head lice inspection consent form requesting permission from parents to participate in the school's head lice inspection program will be attached to the enrolment documentation when a student starts at the school. The 'yes' or 'no' response will be entered on CASES.

- Following any head lice inspections, a letter will be given to all students involved in the inspection to inform parents of the result of the inspection. Any student found to have head lice would have on the detachable return slip at the bottom of their letter, a request to the parent to indicate the treatment used and when it commenced prior to the child's return to school.
- When there have been two or more notifications of head lice infestations of students in a year level, a Skoolbag alert will be posted to parents informing them that head lice has been detected in their child's year level and requesting to check their child's hair. Information about where parents may get further advice and information will also be provided in the note.
- Successful implementation of the head lice policy will be measured by:
 - Consistent notification by parents of individual head lice infestations.
 - Decreased incidence of head lice infestations.
 - Students and parents dealing with head lice incidents effectively without any associated stigma.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part the schools four-yearly cycle of policy review, or sooner if required.