



## HEAD LICE POLICY

### PURPOSE

Head lice can cause concern and frustration for parents, teachers and children. This school policy is intended to outline roles, responsibilities and expectations of the school community to assist with treating and controlling head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner.

### CORE POLICY

Whilst parents have the main responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, Wild Cherry School and Kindergarten will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner, to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

This school policy draws on information from the Scratching for Answers information pamphlet and management guidelines published by the Department of Health.

Parents/Carers and Families are expected to:

- Check children's hair for head lice weekly, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method.
- Notify the school if head lice have been detected and treated.
- Keep their child at home if head lice are left untreated (in accordance with *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009*).
- Sign an agreement accepting the terms of the School Head Lice Policy.
- Regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary.
- Tie your child's hair back if it is long to reduce the risk of catching and/or spreading head lice.
- Treat head lice safely and as per recommended conditioner combing detection method.
- Notify the parents or carers of your child's friends so they can check their children and treat if necessary.
- Maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising or blaming families who are finding it hard to control head lice.
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community around issues of head lice.

### AUTHORISATION

Board Secretary  
East Gippsland Steiner Education Group Inc.  
Date authorised: 23 October 2018

## PROCEDURES

To support parents/carers and the broader school community to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management, the School will:

- Distribute up to date and accurate information on the finding, treating and controlling of head lice to parents and staff (at the beginning of each school year or when required).
- Include information about head lice management in orientation and transition programs for new families/staff attending the school and/or kindergarten.
- Include information and updates in school newsletters.
- Offer a parent-managed head lice detection program to help families manage head lice.
- Include annual head lice management updates for staff in-service programs.
- Provide practical advice and maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising or blaming families who are finding it hard to control head lice.
- Access community educational resources and support, such as primary school nurses, community health centres and local government.
- Follow the recommendations of the School and Children's Services Centres Exclusion Policy of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009* in that the responsibility to exclude a child from the school or kindergarten rests with the principal or person in charge.
- Only exclude children from school with live insects.
- Accept the advice of parents that appropriate treatment has commenced.
- Encourage children to learn about head lice to help reduce stigma or bullying.
- Require all families to sign an agreement accepting the conditions of the school's head lice policy.
- Be aware of real difficulties some parents may have and provide extra support if required.
- Participate in a Head Lice Local Area Network to work with other schools, kindergartens, childcare centres, health services and pharmacists in our Local Government Area to achieve consistent management and policy.
- Review the head lice policy annually.
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community around issues of head lice.
- Seek opportunities to increase our collective understanding of and response to managing head lice.

## HEAD LICE DETECTION PROGRAM

*The Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009* do not require any school to undertake head-lice detection programs however Wild Cherry School will offer a head lice detection program if there is parental consent:

- Ensure that any person employed by the school, or volunteering, to undertake head lice inspections will adhere to the school policy and Department of Health information.
- Only inspect the heads of children whose parents have given consent.
- Develop a generic/blanket consent form which parents sign at commencement of each school year.
- Respect the wishes of parents/families who elect not to participate in a school head lice inspection program.
- Give a letter to all children involved in head lice inspections to help reduce the stigma and maintain confidentiality.
- Include all school staff in inspection program.

I/We, \_\_\_\_\_ parents/carers/guardians of  
\_\_\_\_\_, have read and agree to the terms as outlined above.

Signature:

Date:

Signature:

Date: