LATROBE SDS
HEAD LICE POLICY

Rationale

Head Lice continue to cause concern and frustration for some parents, teachers and children. Parents/carers have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice. Our school community will work in a co-operative and collaborative manner to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

1. Aims

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.

To ensure that parents/carers are well informed about head lice treatment.

2. Guidelines

This school policy draws on information obtained from the Information Pamphlet and Management Guidelines ‘Scratching for Answers?’.

It is expected that:

2.1 Children’s hair will be checked for head lice on a regular basis, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method;

2.2 Children do not attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with Health Infectious Diseases Regulations 2001);

2.3 Parents/carers regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary;

2.4 Parents/carers will notify the school if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced (in accordance with Health Infectious Disease Regulations 2001);

2.5 Children with long hair will attend school with hair tied back;

2.6 Only safe and recommended practices to treat head lice will be used;

2.7 Parents/carers will notify the parents or carers of your child’s friends so they have an early opportunity to detect and treat their children if necessary;
2.8 The school will maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures;

2.9 Parents/carers will act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community especially around issues of head lice;

2.10 Parents/carers will complete the Head lice inspections consent form approving their child’s participation in any inspections arranged at the school.

3. Implementation

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

3.1 Distribute up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of each year or more frequently if required;

3.2 Include information about head lice management in orientation and transition programs for new families/staff attending the school;

3.3 Include information and updates in school newsletters;

3.4 Include head lice updates for staff in-service programs as required;

3.6 Access community educational resources and support, such as primary school nurses, community health centres and local government;

3.7 Abide by the recommendations of the School Exclusion Policy of the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001 in that the responsibility to exclude a child from the school rests with the principal or person in charge;

3.8 Inform the school community when an outbreak has occurred using a proforma letter with attached information for treatment of head lice;

3.9 Students who have been found to have eggs and/or live insect infestation will be isolated and required to be excluded from school immediately until they have received adequate treatment;

3.10 Expect Parents/guardians to complete the “Head Lice Treatment Reply slip” indicating that the child has received adequate treatment before resuming school attendance;
3.11 Conduct head lice checks on a whole school basis;

3.10 Carry out a follow up check within a week of the above;

3.11 To inform parents who have not signed an authority for head lice checks that they will be required (at the time of the whole school check) to organise their own head lice check and clearance before their child resumes school;

3.12 Be aware of real difficulties some parents may encounter and seek extra support if required;

3.13 Review the head lice policy on the tri annual policy cycle and seek endorsement from the School Council;

3.14 Ensure that any person engaged by the school to undertake ‘head lice inspections’ will adhere to the school policy and latest Department of Human Services information and Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001;

3.15 Conduct head lice inspections for relevant teachers and school staff as part of the whole school screening.

4. Evaluation:

This Policy will be reviewed as part of the three year policy cycle. The review should include consideration of the following:

- The Policy’s on-going relevance to the school program and student needs.
- Feedback from staff, parents and students.

1 www.dhs.vic.gov.au/phd/head lice

This policy was last ratified by Latrobe SDS School Council in.... April 2009.
Your child was checked today by trained Latrobe SDS staff at school for the presence of head lice.

The results of the check are:

☐ No lice or eggs detected.
   **Action required:** None

☐ Dead eggs were found.
   **Action required:** Combing of hair

☐ Live lice /Live lice eggs were found.
   **Action required:** Treatment and combing with a method that has killed or removed live lice/eggs before child is returned to school. As per school Policy the return slip must be completed and handed in upon the child’s return to school.

Under the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001 and Latrobe Special Developmental School’s Head Lice Policy, children found with live lice will be isolated and sent home immediately and cannot be readmitted to school until after appropriate treatment has commenced.

**Please Note:** All children who are found to have live eggs/lice will be re-checked by trained staff soon after returning to school to ensure the infestation has been effectively treated. If any live eggs/lice are detected parents will be contacted.

Regards

Michelle Hibbert
Principal

ACTION TAKEN – PARENT/CARER RESPONSE

If your child has been detected with live lice, this reply slip must be returned signed to school at the same time that your child returns.

☐ I have treated my child’s head in a manner that has killed or removed the live lice/eggs.

☐ I would like to be shown how the Latrobe City Environmental Health Team recommends removal of eggs and lice using hair conditioner and a fine toothed comb.

Child’s Name:............................................  Parent Signature:.................................
LATROBE SPECIAL DEVELOPMENTAL SCHOOL

CONSENT FORM—HEAD LICE INSPECTIONS

Throughout the year, the school will be arranging head lice inspections of students.

The management of head lice infestation works best when all children are involved in our screening program.

The school is aware that this can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining student confidentiality and avoiding stigmatisation.

Before any inspections are conducted staff will explain to all students what is being done and why, and it will be emphasised to students that the presence of head lice in their hair does not mean that their hair is less clean or well kept than anyone else’s. It will also be pointed out that head lice can be itchy and annoying and if you know you have got them, you can do something about it.

The inspection of students will be conducted by Latrobe Special Developmental School staff and on some occasions the Latrobe Shire Pediculous Nurse.

The person conducting the inspections will physically search through each student’s hair to see if any lice or eggs are present.

In cases where head lice are found, the person inspecting the student will inform the student’s class teacher and the principal. The school will send a written notice home with the child and provide parents with comprehensive advice about the use of safe treatment practices which do not place children’s health at risk.

Please note that the law requires that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until appropriate treatment has commenced.

Parent’s/Guardian’s Full Name: ……………………………………………………

Address: ……………………………………………………… Postcode: ……………

Name(s) of Child/Children attending the school:

…………………………………………
…………………………………………
…………………………………………
…………………………………………

I hereby give my consent for the above-named children to participate in the school’s head lice inspection program.

Signature of Parent/Guardian …………………………………… Date: …………. 