Doncaster Gardens Primary School
Head Lice Policy

Philosophical Basis:

Head lice are a common and persistent concern for parents of students in primary schools. Support for parents and students is necessary through an accurate and consistent approach to the management of head lice infestations.

Guidelines:

- Confidentiality will be maintained at all times.
- Parents will be encouraged to accept responsibility for the regular check of their children’s hair.
- The school community will be informed immediately of the incidence of head lice in the school.
- When an outbreak of head lice becomes evident, families in the affected class will be notified.
- Information on the latest approaches and products available for the safe treatment of head lice will be made available to the school community at the beginning of each year, and more frequently if required.
- At no time will head lice treatment be administered by the school.
- Until appropriate treatment has commenced and the school notified in writing, students will be excluded from attending school until the live insects have been removed, (in accordance with the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009).

Implementation:

- Head lice infestations will be constantly monitored at Doncaster Gardens Primary School.
- If appropriate, teachers will discuss with their classes the prevalence of head lice in order to minimise the stigmatisation of affected students.
- When planning physical activities for students, teachers will consider whether they may be likely to contribute to the spread of head lice.
- Students will be made aware of preventative measures related to their own personal habits.
- Long hair should be tied back for health and safety reasons, and to help stop the spread of head lice.
- Information will be provided to all families to assist in the recognition of head lice and the treatment required.
- Parents who wish to seek advice on head lice should contact the school’s First Aid Coordinator.
- A head lice inspection permission form, signed by parents will be required for each student and will be kept on file.
- If head lice are found, parents are requested to notify the school and to commence treatment immediately.
- Head inspections will be conducted by the first aid coordinator or appropriately qualified nurse at the discretion of the Principal, and all children will receive a letter informing parents of the inspection.
- When a student is found to have head lice, parents will be notified immediately by telephone if possible. At the end of the school day the student will be provided with a note to take home to inform the parents that he/she may have head lice. The note will contain a reply slip for parents to use to inform the school that treatment has commenced, at which point the student may return to school.

Evaluation:

- Success will be measured by minimal cases of head lice identified.
- Review of procedures will ensure that head lice outbreaks are kept to a minimum.
- Parents will be informed of changes and developments in treatments.
- This policy will be reviewed every three years as part of the policy review cycle.

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