



# Clifton Creek Primary School

## HEAD LICE POLICY

Head lice are highly contagious and irritating parasites which can infest human hair. Unfortunately children tend to be at high risk of contracting and spreading head lice because of close contact with their classmates. Long hair and sharing of hats, hair accessories and equipment are other risks for spreading head lice. Children at school with live head lice present an obvious difficulty. Live head lice at school increases the likelihood of head lice spreading to other children and staff.

### **Successful treatment of head lice can be difficult and time consuming.**

Whilst there are many products available, resistance to chemical agents in head lice is widespread, most products require repeat treatments and most are ineffective against eggs attached to hair shafts which haven't hatched. With persistence, a simple conditioner and comb method is successful if applied at least every alternate day until no live lice are detected in hair.

**To ensure prompt action can be taken to curtail head lice infestations** at CCPS, all parents will be requested to sign a permission form at their child's enrolment to allow Carol Kennedy and/or teaching staff members to inspect their child's hair if necessary for the presence of head lice.

### **Head Lice Inspection Program**

Before any inspections are conducted an explanation will be given to all students regarding 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.

Inspections will be either a visual check of your child's hair for the presence of head lice, when it is suspected that head lice may be present, OR it may be a general whole school screening to individually inspect each student's hair to see if any lice or eggs are present.

If children are found with live head lice at CCPS, the following actions will be undertaken:

- Parent/carers will be notified by phone that their child has live head lice and requested to remove the child from school and begin treatment at home
- Parents of other children in the class room will be notified that there has been a detection of head lice in their child's classroom and requested to be vigilant in checking their child's hair for head lice.

Please note that health regulations require that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until appropriate treatment has commenced. The school is aware that this can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining student confidentiality and avoiding stigmatisation.

*This policy was last ratified by School Council on 3 May 2017  
and is to be reviewed every three years or earlier if necessary.*