



Parent Managed Head Lice Program

POLICY

Mount Pleasant Road Primary School

A. **Rationale:**

A.1. Head lice infestation is often associated with school children, thus frequently considered a school issue. However head lice do not differentiate between schools, homes, business, hygiene or socio-economic status. It is a health concern that affects the whole community, thus there needs to be a community approach to its management. The basis of the 'Parent Managed Head Lice Program' is a community approach.

B. **Aim:**

B.1. To eradicate head lice and assist families whose children are infested.

C. **Implementation:**

C.1. It is the expectation of parents/carers and families to:

C.1.1. Regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary.

C.1.2. Not send their child to school with untreated head lice in accordance with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001.

C.1.3. Notify the school of any incidences so they have the opportunity to notify parents.

C.1.4. Maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures.

C.1.5. Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community, especially around issues of head lice.

C.1.6. Sign an agreement accepting the terms of the School Head Lice Policy.

C.2. MPRPS recommends that any child with long hair has it tied back for safety reasons as well as to reduce the risk of head lice infestation.

C.3. To support parents/carers and the broader school community to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management the school will:

C.3.1. Have accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice available as required.

C.3.2. Include information about head lice management in the school information booklet.

C.3.3. Include information and updates in school newsletters as necessary.

C.3.4. 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, and only children from school with live insects will be excluded until the day after treatment has commenced.

C.3.5. Request that all families attending this school sign an agreement to accept the conditions of the school's Parent Managed Head Lice Program.

C.3.6. Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community.

C.3.7. Continue to seek opportunities to increase the community's collective understanding of, and response to, managing head lice.

C.3.8. Ensure the screening and infection control guideline will be adhered to by all volunteers.

C.3.9. Ensure all volunteers of the program sign a confidentiality agreement and do the utmost to maintain discretion.

C.4. MPRPS is aware that the management of head lice is a sensitive issue. MPRPS is committed to managing head lice in a sensitive and confidential manner.

D. **Evaluation:**

D.1. This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle, or as required due to changes in relevant Acts, Laws or should situations arise that require earlier consideration.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in.....

June 2018