



St Brigid's Catholic School

New Norfolk

HEAD LICE NOTIFICATION POLICY

RATIONALE

Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp, where they obtain nourishment and breed. While they do not carry nor transmit disease, they can be embarrassing. They are a common cause of head itch and scratching, which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands. Anyone can be infested with head lice. Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump, but are spread from person to person by head-to-head contact, and by sharing personal items such as combs, brushes, hats and other head wear. Therefore, they need to be controlled.

AIMS

- To quickly and effectively respond to reports of head lice at the school.
- To ensure that effective processes for treating head lice are known and consistently followed.
- To provide current information to parents about head lice and the treatment to control infestations.

PROCEDURES

- Parents have a responsibility to check and control head lice in their children.
- Parents are requested to contact the principal or the class teacher if their child/children are found to have head lice.
- Teachers need not check children for head lice, but should they notice head lice on a child's head, the child will be discreetly removed from the classroom and the principal informed.
- The principal (or his/her nominee) will contact the parents of the child and arrange for the child be collected from school and appropriately treated for head lice.
- The principal will provide parents of infected children, and parents of children in the same grade level as infected children, with the latest information about head lice treatment and prevention.

- Children are not to return to school until all head lice and their eggs (often called 'nits') are removed from the child's hair.
- Upon return to school, the principal (or his/her nominee) will check the child's head to ensure they are free of head lice and eggs.
- The Principal will periodically place information in the school newsletter regarding effective head lice prevention, detection and treatment, especially at times of outbreaks of infestation in the school.
- The Principal will alert the school community of head lice infestations in the school and encourage parents to check and treat their children.
- The local Family and Child Health Centre may be contacted by the principal and parents for advice, particularly if infestation is persistent.

*This policy and associated practices will be reviewed as part of the
St Brigid's Catholic School policy review cycle.*

**Implemented July 2008
Reviewed and amended October 2013**