

Toora Primary School - Head Lice Policy

Purpose

While parents/guardians have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, Toora Primary school also has a role in the management of head lice infections and in providing support for parents/guardians and students.

Toora Primary school will minimise anxiety by acknowledging that most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time and by having a comprehensive management plan.

Aim

To have an effective and consistent approach to the management of head lice infections as part of a whole school approach to promoting student health and wellbeing.

Guidelines

Toora Primary School

- Has a commitment to distribute up-to-date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents/guardians and staff at the beginning of every year and more frequently if required (available from website <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/>).
- Invites parents/guardians to contact the school for head lice advice as required.
- Requires that parents/guardians refrain from sending their children to school with untreated head lice. (It should be noted that students may be treated one evening and return to school the next day and that the presence of eggs in the hair is not cause for exclusion. Parents/guardians need to be aware that one treatment is not sufficient to manage the problem. If a student re-attends school with live head lice the school may again exclude the student until the live insects have been removed.)
- Is committed to providing parents/guardians with comprehensive advice about the use of safe treatment practices which do not place students' health at risk.
- Has clear inspection protocols including a pro forma for obtaining written parental permission for all inspections whilst the child is enrolled at Toora Primary school.
- Has a pro forma letter of notification to parents/guardians of those students found to have head lice.
- Has a commitment to help reduce stigma and maintain confidentiality following head lice inspections, e.g. it is recommended that a letter be given to all students involved in inspections, not just those found to have head lice

- Provides classroom activities to give students an understanding of the habits and life-cycle of head lice in order to minimise the incidence of stigmatisation of particular students and families.
- Trains appropriate school personnel in detection and management of head lice at the school level.

It is recommended that parents / guardians:

- Regularly (preferably once per week) inspect their child/children's hair for lice or lice eggs (using conditioner and a head lice comb is an effective method)
- Regularly inspect all household members and follow with treatment if head lice are detected
- Upon detection of head lice, notify the school and advise when treatment has commenced.

Evaluation

The Head Lice policy will be reviewed annually to ascertain if it is meeting the school's needs. It will be formally ratified by School Council every three years.

The school will regularly check DEECD websites for policy updates.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/health/headlice/management.htm>

CONSENT FORM TO CONDUCT HEAD LICE INSPECTIONS

Permission to cover the duration of the student's schooling at:

TOORA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Throughout your child's schooling, the school will be arranging head lice inspections of students.

The management of head lice infection 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.

The inspections of students will be conducted by a trained person approved by the principal and school council.

Before any inspections are conducted the person conducting the inspections 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 person conducting the inspections will check through each student's hair to see if any lice or eggs are present.

Persons authorised by the school principal may also visually check your child's hair for the presence of head lice, when it is suspected that head lice may be present. They do not physically touch the child's head during a visual check.

In cases where head lice are found, the person inspecting the student will inform the student's teacher and the principal and/or pastoral care worker. The school will make appropriate contact with the parents/guardians/carers.

Please note that health regulations requires that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until appropriate treatment has commenced. The school may request the completion of an 'action taken form', which requires parents/guardians/carers to nominate if and when the treatment has started.

Parent's/guardian's/carer's full name:

Parent's/guardian's/carer's full name:

Address:..... Post code:.....

Name of child attending the school:.....

I hereby give my consent for the above named child to participate in the school's head lice inspection program for the duration of their schooling at this school.

Signature of parent/guardian/carer: Date.....

Signature of parent/guardian/carer: Date.....

Please inform the school if guardianship/custody changes for your child, as this form will need to be re-signed to reflect these changes. Please also inform the school in writing if you no longer wish to provide consent for the school to undertake head lice inspections for your child.

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

Head lice or eggs are suspected to have been detected on your child and it is very important for you to treat your child as soon as possible, using safe treatment practices. Please see the attached pamphlet, *Treating and Controlling Head Lice*, from the Department of Human Services. This pamphlet has informative guidelines regarding detecting and treating head lice and eggs.

It is very important for you to notify **Toora Primary School** and to advise when appropriate treatment has commenced.

It is important to note, that health regulations require that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until the day after appropriate treatment has started. Please note that this refers only to those children who have live head lice and does not refer to head lice eggs.

Please complete the below form and provide this to **Mrs Barbara Purvis - Principal**, on the return of your child to school.



**Action Taken – Student Head Lice
Parent/Guardian/Carer Response Form**

To: Mrs Barbara Purvis,
CONFIDENTIAL

Student's Full Name: _____ Year Level: _____

I understand that my child should not attend school with untreated head lice.

I used the following recommended treatment for head lice or eggs for my child (**insert name of treatment**) _____.

Treatment commenced on (insert date) ____/____/____

Signature of parent/carer/guardian:

Date.....

TOORA PRIMARY SCHOOL

5 HARRIET STREET
TOORA VIC 3962

TEL: 03 56862283
FAX: 03 56862704
Email: toora.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Website: www.tooraps.vic.edu.au



From the hills to the sea, being the best we can be..

They're Back

Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers,

It has come to my attention that some students in the school may have head lice and I seek your cooperation in checking your child's hair this week (insert date __/__/__ to __/__/__).

Head lice do not transmit infectious diseases – they are transmitted by having head to head contact with someone who has head lice. You may be reassured to know that head lice are commonly found in places other than at Toora Primary School. Head lice are common in school-aged children and are the most adaptable of creatures. They have survived living solely on humans for 10,000 years!!!!

What can you do?

I seek your cooperation in checking your child's hair and in those instances where head lice or eggs are found, treating your child's hair.

Please see the attached pamphlet *Treating and Controlling Head Lice*, from the Department of Human Services. This pamphlet has informative guidelines regarding detecting and treating head lice and eggs.

How do I treat my child for head lice?

The attached pamphlet (as noted above) has informative guidelines regarding detecting and treating head lice and eggs. The school also has additional information available regarding treatment and controlling head lice. Please don't hesitate to contact Barb Purvis or Di Walker on, 56862283 to obtain this information.

If head lice or eggs are found on your child's hair you need to inform:

- the school and advise when the treatment has started, via the attached *Action Taken Form*.
- parents or carers of your child's friends so they too have the opportunity to detect and treat their children if necessary.

When can my child return to school?

Health regulations requires that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until the day after appropriate treatment has started. Please note, this refers only to those children who have live head lice and does not refer to head lice eggs.

Toora Primary school is aware that head lice can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining your confidentiality.

Kind regards

Mrs Barbara Purvis, Principal

Date.....