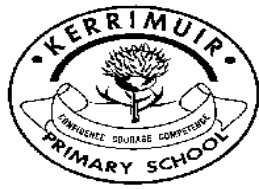


Rationale:

- Head Lice (Pediculosis) are tiny insects that:
 - live on the human scalp where they feed and breed
 - do not carry or transmit disease
 - are a common cause of head itch/scratching which may lead to infection/swollen lymph glands.Therefore they need to be eradicated
- Kerrimuir Primary School acknowledges that, while Parents/Guardians have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, schools also have a role in the management of head lice infections and in providing support for Parents / Guardians and students, as most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time.
- To ensure a consistent approach is established and implemented to manage head lice detection/treatment/control.
- To define clear roles for the school and Parents/Guardians in the management of head lice detection/treatment/control.
- To promote a healthy and safe school environment for students and staff.
- There is no statutory requirement (under the Health Act 1958 or Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001) to obtain consent for head lice inspections. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) has advised schools that Parental consent is required.

Aims:

- Provide procedures for school staff to follow when head lice are suspected.
- Have clear expectations of Parents/Guardians.
- Work towards gaining Parent/Guardian support to minimise cross infection.
- Commitment to provide resources and referral information.



Implementation:

- Parents / Guardians will inspect their children's hair regularly (preferably once per week). Parents are to refrain from sending their children to school with untreated head lice. If head lice are detected and in accordance with School Exclusion Policy of the Health (Infectious Disease) Regulations 2001 treatment of the head lice must take place prior to the children returning to school.
- Parents/Guardians will notify the class teacher of any detected cases.
- The class teacher on learning of head lice case/s will notify the office who will distribute a general alert to fellow class members, including an information sheet on current head lice treatment procedures.
- If staff suspects a student has head lice, measures will be taken to minimise cross infection. Parents will be contacted and expected to collect their child for inspection and to take home to commence appropriate treatment.
- The school will have available information, resources and referral sources for head lice detection/treatment/control.
- Staff will maintain confidentiality and sensitivity when dealing with members of the school community.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.