

# MANIFOLD HEIGHTS PS

## PARENT MANAGED HEAD LICE PROGRAM

### POLICY

#### **Rationale:**

Head lice continue to cause frustration for some parents, teachers and children. This school policy is intended to outline roles, responsibilities and expectations of the school community to assist with treating and controlling head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner.

Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice in our school community, we will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

#### **Aims:**

It is the expectation of parents/carers and families attending Manifold Heights Primary School that:

- Children's hair will be checked for head lice regularly at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing method detection system.
- Children's hair will be neat and kept tied back whilst at school.
- Request be made that all parents attending Manifold Heights PS sign an agreement to accept conditions of the Head Lice Policy. Parent consent forms to be sent out to cover the duration of the student's schooling at Manifold Heights Primary School.
- The school will provide practical advice and maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatizing/blaming families who are experiencing difficulties with control measures.
- Accept advice that appropriate treatment needs to be commenced.
- Ensure their child does not attend school with untreated head lice.
- Notify the school if their child is affected so that a note can be sent out to all students in that year level.
- Act responsibly, confidentially and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community around issues of head lice.
- Continue to seek opportunities to increase our collective understanding of and response to managing head lice.

To support parents/carers and the broader school community to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management at Manifold Heights, the school will:

- If the school is notified by a parent that they have detected Head Lice in their child's hair, a note asking all parents to check their own child's hair is sent home with every child in that community (Prep, Juniors, Middles & Seniors)
- Distribute up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of the year and more frequently if required.
- Encourage children to learn about head lice so as to help remove any stigma or bullying associated with the issue.
- Be aware of real difficulties some parents may encounter and seek extra support if required.

- Include information about head lice management in orientation and transition programs for new families/staff attending school and include information updates in the school newsletter

**Evaluation:**

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

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....	March 2017
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