



Busseton Primary School

Head Lice Policy

Background

Head Lice is a problem very common in all schools. The Dept of Education has clear guidelines to be followed when head lice infestations are detected, which form the basis of this policy.

Rationale

School is a place where head lice can easily be passed on from one to another. It is important that the school has procedures in place to reduce the risk of this happening, and to ensure that all parents follow the necessary steps to treat head lice when they occur.

Policy

Students who are found to have live head lice should be sent home immediately, to be treated by parents. A letter advising of the presence of head lice will be sent home with the student.

They can return to school the next day provided they have been treated.

On return to school students should come to the school's front office before returning to class. An administrator will check that their form has been signed to indicate the treatment has been done, and check the hair is clear of lice. The presence of a few eggs is permitted, provided the hair has been treated.

Guidelines

The principal or any appointed staff member can check any students' hair for the presence of head lice. Students who are found to have head lice should be sent home. If this is not possible, they should be kept in isolation at the school.

A notice to parents will be sent home with the student advising of the presence of head lice, and that the child's hair must be treated with an approved product. Students cannot be readmitted to class unless the form has been signed, stating that treatment has been followed.

Students may return to class if there are a few eggs present – but the guidelines to parents state that removal of remaining eggs must continue.

If a student is found to have eggs in his/her hair, he or she can remain at school. The teacher should ensure contact with other students does not occur, and a letter advising the parent of the eggs' presence should be sent home, requesting the hair be treated.

A staff member can treat a child's hair for head lice, provided the parent has consented to this.

References

- Dept of Education Reg Framework, "Student Health", PP 18 & 36
- EDWA Head Lice handbook, July 2001
- Health Dept fact sheet