

Head Lice Policy

PURPOSE

Head lice management is a complex issue for schools and head lice infections can be difficult to manage. The responsibility for detecting and treating head lice rests primarily with the parents/guardians but it is important for them to be given practical advice and support. The aim of this policy is to promote partnerships between Upwey South Primary School and our families to support and manage head lice

The discovery of head lice can be a sensitive issue. At all times the school will exercise sensitivity towards this issue by maintaining student confidentiality.

GUIDELINES AND IMPLEMENTATION:

Up-to-date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice will be distributed to parents/guardians and staff on a need to know basis. Individual students will not be identified when informing the school community about an infestation.

Parents/ guardians may contact the school and confidentially discuss management of head lice if their child is suspected of having head lice.

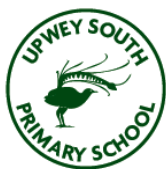
When a student is identified with live head lice, the parent/ guardian will be contacted and the child is to be collected from the school where possible. Upwey South Primary School will provide the student with a note to take home to inform their parent/carer that their child may have head lice.

Parents/guardians are to refrain from sending their children to school with untreated head lice. Students may be treated in the evening and return to school the next day with written confirmation from the parent that the infestation has been treated.

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.

If it is detected that a student has head lice, the students in the same and adjoining classes will have a letter sent home informing the parents/ guardians of appropriate treatment and steps available.

Where suitable and age-appropriate, the classroom teacher may lead a class discussion to increase students' understanding of the habits and life-cycle of head lice, in order to minimise the incidence of stigmatisation.



UPWEY SOUTH
Primary School

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

DET School Policies Advisory Guide

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/pages/headlice.aspx>

Department of Health

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/>

Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009, School Exclusion Table:

School Exclusion Table

RELATED POLICIES:

Engagement and Wellbeing Policy

POLICY EVALUATION:

This policy is to be reviewed every two years by the Policy Review (Education) Sub Committee of the School Council.

DUE DATE FOR REVIEW:

This policy was last updated in February 2020 and is scheduled for review in February 2022.