



UPWEY SOUTH

PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Policy Statement on

HEAD LICE

RATIONALE;

To provide clear guidelines regarding procedures for handling cases of head lice at Upwey South Primary School

It is acknowledged 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.

It is also acknowledged that most schools are at some time affected by head lice infestation.

GUIDELINES;

1. Upwey South Primary School will distribute up to date information on detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents/guardians and staff at the commencement of each school year and other appropriate times.
2. A school resource person will be appointed each year, who may be contacted by parents for information and support.
3. In case of head lice infestation, parents are required to keep children from school until head lice have been treated. If treated in the evening students may return to school the following day. Parents will be made aware that one treatment will not be sufficient to eradicate the problem.
4. Students with eggs only will not be excluded from school. Parents will however be notified and treatment required.
5. The school will seek written permission from parents at the beginning of the year to carry out head lice inspections.
6. Head lice inspections will be carried out at the principal's discretion.
7. Head lice inspections will be carried out on a class basis, except for siblings of students with head lice infestation.
8. In the case of head lice infestation or the presence of eggs, parents will be notified by letter. Parents will be asked to return a slip acknowledging receipt and confirming treatment.
9. A general letter will be distributed to classes where head lice infestation is detected so all parents can check their own children at home.
10. Upwey South Primary School will maintain confidentiality and strive to reduce any stigma associated with head lice infestation.
11. Trained staff members or trained parents will carry out head lice inspections.
12. Classes at Upwey South Primary School will discuss strategies for minimizing head lice infestation.
13. Advice to parents will include the following recommendations:

- Weekly inspections of children's hair for lice and eggs using conditioner and a head lice comb are recommended.
- Notify the school immediately if live lice are discovered.
- Regular inspection (and treatment if required) of all household members is recommended.
- It is recommended that long hair is tied back. This does not prevent head lice, but minimizes the spread.
- Sharing of hats is to be discouraged.

Principal _____

School Council President _____

Date ratified by School Council:

To be reviewed: