

**ROWVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE) POLICY**



**DEFINITIONS**

While parents/carers have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, schools also have a role in the management of pediculosis (head lice) infections and in providing support for parents/carers and students.

**PURPOSE**

To minimise the anxiety for members of the school community by acknowledging that most schools will have some students with pediculosis at any given time.

To develop and adopt a management plan for the detection, treatment and control of head lice.

To make parents aware that pediculosis exists within the school community.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

A comprehensive management plan incorporating the following:

- Up-to-date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice in the form of a Department of Health brochure entitled “Scratching for Answers” will be provided to parents/carers as required. Further information is available from website <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/>.
- A pediculosis first aid/admin officer who parents/carers can contact at the school.
- Parents will be requested to carry out regular inspection (preferably once per week) of their child/children’s hair for lice or lice eggs (using conditioner and a head lice comb is the most effective method) - refer brochure “Scratching for Answers”.
- Written parental permission for pediculosis inspections is incorporated into the enrolment form and entered onto CASES21.
- Parents/carers are requested to notify the school upon detection of pediculosis and advise when treatment has commenced.
- When a case of pediculosis is detected or reported, a notification letter will be sent to all students in the class.
- Only students who have permission from a parent/carer will have a pediculosis inspection. Permission from parent/carer will be checked on CASES21 prior to conducting a pediculosis inspection on any student.

- When any student is inspected for pediculosis, a pro-forma letter of notification will be sent to notify parents/carers of all students involved, whether or not pediculosis is detected. For students where pediculosis has been detected, a phone call will be made to a parent/carer to discuss appropriate action to be taken.
- Parents/carers are requested to refrain from sending their children to school with untreated head lice. It should be noted that students may be treated one evening and return to school the next day and that the presence of eggs or live lice in the hair is not cause for exclusion.
- Parents/carers 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 request further appropriate home treatment for the student until the live head lice have been removed.
- The school will have a commitment to help reduce stigma and maintain confidentiality following head lice inspections.

This policy was ratified at School Council on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016 and will be reviewed in July 2019