

**Rowville Primary School**  
**PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE) POLICY**



**Help for non-English speakers**

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact 9764 1955

**PURPOSE**

While parents/carers and public health experts have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, schools also have a role in controlling and preventing head lice.

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 live pediculosis and advise when treatment has commenced.
- When a case of live 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.

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- 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 pediculosis is detected or not. For students where pediculosis has been detected, a phone call will be made to a parent/carer to discuss appropriate action to be taken.

A student with live head lice should stay home from school until the day after treatment has commenced. If a student is treated in the evening, they may return to school the next day.

- Parents/carers need to be aware that one treatment is not sufficient and a follow up treatment 7 days later is required to manage Pediculosis. 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.

Policy last reviewed	22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2022
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	June 2025