

# Head Lice Policy

## PURPOSE

To minimise outbreaks of head lice.

## ACTION

Skipton Primary School must:

- obtain informed written consent of parents/guardians prior to students being inspected for head lice
- exclude infected students until the day after treatment has commenced.

## DETECTION AND TREATMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities for managing head lice are shared between parents/guardians, schools and principals. Parents/guardians have primary responsibility for detection and treatment of head lice.

Parents/guardians should:

- regularly, preferably once a week, check for lice or eggs in the hair of their child and all household members
- notify the school if their child is affected
- when treatment commenced
- not send their children to school with untreated head lice.

The schools must:

- exercise sensitivity towards students and families with head lice
- maintain student confidentiality to avoid stigmatisation
- support and provide practical treatment advice to parents/guardians.

The principals must:

- alert parents/guardians of an infestation, particularly the parents of other students in the same class as the affected child/children
- use discretion about informing the school community about an infestation.

**Note:** The Department of Human Services indicates at any one time there are likely to be cases of head lice in most schools, so it is not advocated that the principal informs the whole school community each time head lice are detected.