



HEAD LICE POLICY

At Keller Rd School, we follow the following procedures for the control of head lice as part of our Health Support Policy. Each year parents are reminded through the school newsletter that checking and treating children's hair is BY LAW A PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY.

It is not the school's responsibility:

- **To conduct mass head inspections**
- **Treat children**
- **Give expert advice.**

GENERAL:

1. At the beginning of the year parents are asked to sign consent for staff to watch for head lice. This is kept in the front office.
2. Teachers are watchful in their classrooms of the presence of head lice in a child's hair.

CLASSROOM ACTION:

1. If head lice are detected the student remains in the classroom and a note or phone call is made to the front office notifying that a child is suspected of having head lice. They should not be sent to the front office immediately as this will draw attention to the issue and provide possible embarrassment for the child. There also may not be anyone available in the front office to deal with the issue immediately.
2. The parent is contacted as soon as practical and at least by the end of the day if their child is suspected of having head lice.
3. If a parent is not contactable the child remains in the classroom and while it may be possible to move them away from close proximity with other students the child should not be isolated or sent to another room. A child can stay till the end of the day if not collected.
4. It must be remembered that a student may have been in the classroom for days or hours with the head lice and as head lice is not a life threatening issue a few more hours will not have a significant effect.
5. The child should have hair tied back and all students should be encouraged to come to school with hair tied back.
6. A child's hair should never be inspected in front of other children.

PARENT ACTION

1. Check their children's and other family member's hair regularly for head lice and nits
2. Ensure their children do not attend education and/ or care with untreated head lice
3. Inform the service (e.g. school) that their child has head lice and when treatment started
4. Use appropriate head lice treatments to address infestation.

Additional Resources SCHOOL ACTION

1 Staff especially the principal will discuss appropriate treatment with parents such as those recommended by the Health Commission.

2 As a site we offer head lice treatment obtained through DECD free to school card holders and discuss the correct treatment with parents and carers if required. The current treatment provided is Quellada.

3 We inform the parents of children in each classroom where head lice have been detected that they should be vigilant in checking close contact with the infected child if an ongoing case is suspected, with a school notice. In this case parents are asked to check their children's hair each week.

4 Because of the possibility that the eggs may be in hats children are encouraged not to share hats.

Students and Head Lice

If a child is found to have head lice then there is the possibility that they may be subjected to jibes and teasing from other students. To help avoid this kind of bullying it is important that the facts about head lice are explained to students

Head lice can happen to anyone.

- The colour or state of the hair is not a factor
- Head lice prefer clean to dirty hair.
- Head lice are easy to treat.
- Children should not use each other combs and brushes.