



## Sebastopol Primary School

P.O. Box 246  
Warreen Street  
Sebastopol 3356

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# Headlice Policy

## PURPOSE

This policy sets out the requirements for schools to prevent and control the transmission of headlice.

## RATIONALE

While parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of headlice, schools also have a role in the management of headlice infections and in providing support for parents and students. The school will minimise anxiety by acknowledging that most schools will have some students with headlice at any given time.

## IMPLEMENTATION

A commitment to distribute up-to-date information on detection, treatment and control of headlice to parents and staff at the beginning of each year and more frequently if required.

## POLICY

Parents must not send their children to school with untreated headlice. However, students may be treated one evening and return to school the next day, and that the presence of eggs in their hair is not cause for exclusion. Parents need to be aware that one treatment is not sufficient to eradicate headlice. If a child re-attends school with live headlice, the school may again exclude the child until the live head lice have been removed.

- Parental permission will be gained upon enrolment for all inspections including those conducted by school personnel.
- Notification will be sent to parents of those students found to have live headlice or eggs.

To reduce the stigma, Sebastopol Primary School will ensure confidentiality following headlice inspections.

## PARENT EXPECTATIONS

Sebastopol Primary School expects that all parents/carers regularly conduct inspections (preferably one per week) of their child/ren's hair for headlice or eggs. If live headlice or eggs are found, parents are asked:

- To inspect all household members for headlice
- Treat headlice
- Notify Sebastopol Primary School and advise when treatment has commenced.

In line with the School Uniform Policy, students with long hair must have their hair tied back.

## DEFINITIONS

- *Headlice*: small, wingless insects that live, breed and feed on the human scalp. They cannot transmit any infectious diseases. Direct contact is required for transmission from person to person, where head lice crawl from head to head.

## APPENDICES

1. Consent to Conduct Headlice Inspections
2. Headlice Alert Notification
3. Headlice Action Taken



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### EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

This document was last ratified by School Council in <MONTH> <YEAR>.



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### Appendix 1: Consent to Conduct Headlice Inspections

The management of headlice infection works best when all children are involved in our screening program.

Throughout your child's schooling, the school will be arranging headlice inspections of students. The school is aware that this can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining student confidentiality and avoiding stigmatisation. The inspections of students will be conducted by a trained person approved by the principal and school council.

Before any inspections are conducted the person conducting the inspections will explain to all students what is being done and why and it will be emphasised to students that the presence of headlice in their hair does not mean that their hair is less clean or well-kept than anyone else's. It will also be pointed out that headlice can be itchy and annoying and if you know you have got them, you can do something about it.

The person conducting the inspections will check through each student's hair to see if any lice or eggs are present. Person's authorised by the school principal may also visually check your child's hair for the presence of headlice, when it is suspected that head lice may be present. They do not physically touch the child's head during a visual check.

In cases where headlice are found, the person inspecting the student will inform the student's teacher and the principal. The school will make appropriate contact with the parents/guardians/carers.

Please note that health regulations requires that where a child has headlice, that child should not return to school until appropriate treatment has commenced. The school may request the completion of an 'action taken form', which requires parents/guardians/carers to nominate if and when the treatment has started.

Parent/Carer's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby give my consent for the above-named child to participate in the school's head lice inspection program for the duration of their schooling at this school.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



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### Appendix 2: Headlice Alert Notification

Date

Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers,

It has come to my attention that some students in the school may have headlice and I seek your cooperation in checking your child's hair this week (insert date \_\_/\_\_/\_\_ to \_\_/\_\_/\_\_).

Headlice do not transmit infectious diseases – they are transmitted by having head to head contact with someone who has head lice. You may be reassured to know that headlice are commonly found in places other than at Sebastopol Primary School. Headlice are common in school-aged children and are the most adaptable of creatures. They have survived living solely on humans for 10,000 years!!!!

#### What can you do?

I seek your cooperation in checking your child's hair and in those instances where headlice or eggs are found, treating your child's hair. Please visit [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au) and search for "headlice (nits)" for advice on finding, treating and preventing headlice.

#### If headlice or eggs are found on your child's hair you need to inform:

- the school and advise when the treatment has started, via the attached *Action Taken Form*.
- parents or carers of your child's friends so they too have the opportunity to detect and treat their children if necessary.

#### When can my child return to school?

Health regulations requires that where a child has headlice, that child should not return to school until the day after appropriate treatment has started. Please note, this refers only to those children who have live headlice and does not refer to headlice eggs. More information about exclusion requirements can be found by searching for "school exclusion table" at [www.health.vic.gov.au](http://www.health.vic.gov.au).

Sebastopol Primary School is aware that headlice can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining your confidentiality.

Kind regards,

Principal



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### Appendix 3: Headlice Action Taken

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

Headlice or eggs are suspected to have been detected on your child and it is very important for you to treat your child as soon as possible, using safe treatment practices. Please visit [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au) and search for "headlice (nits)" for advice on finding, treating and preventing headlice.

It is very important for you to notify Sebastopol Primary School and to advise when appropriate treatment has commenced.

It is important to note, that health regulations require that where a child has headlice, that child should not return to school until the day after appropriate treatment has started. Please note that this refers only to those children who have live headlice and does not refer to headlice eggs.

Please complete the below form and provide this to the Principal, on the return of your child to school.

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**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Year Level \_\_\_\_\_

#### Student Head Lice: Action Taken

To the Principal

Name of Product \_\_\_\_\_

Date Commenced \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that my child should not attend school with untreated head lice. I used the following recommended treatment for head lice or eggs for my child:

Parent/Carer Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_