

SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL

HEAD LICE INSPECTION AND CONTROL POLICY

AIMS

1. Promote awareness in the school community regarding head lice.
2. Identify and monitor prevalence of head lice.
3. Minimize incidence of head lice within the school.
4. Reduce the need for repeat treatment and/or chemical treatment by prevention, regular screening and education.

PROCEDURE

1. Each child's head checked without use of conditioner or any chemical.
2. Checking is to be by qualified nurses.
3. Due to time requirements, and cost inspections are to be undertaken on a class-by-class basis as required.
4. Where practical, siblings of children found to have head lice to be checked as soon as possible.
5. Where live head lice are detected, the child's parent/guardian is to be contacted immediately and asked to collect the child and commence appropriate treatment.
6. Where eggs are detected a notice will be sent home.
7. No child is to be informed by the person inspecting the hair as to the result of the inspection. The person inspecting the hair is to mark off the class list and present it to the school office at the end of checking that class.
8. In case of school staff being unable to contact parents/guardians of children found to have head lice on day of Inspection, arrangements are to be made (where possible) to separate/isolate children until collection can be arranged.
9. It is important to note, that health regulations require that where a child has head lice, 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 head lice and does not refer to head lice eggs. Parents must return "Action Taken" slip prior to children being readmitted to class.

CONSENT

1. Consent forms are to be provided to parent/guardian of each child.
2. Consent forms to be included in parent handbook.
3. In cases where consent of parent/guardian is not provided, those parents/guardians may be contacted and requested to obtain and provide to the school appropriate certification (as to inspection and absence of head lice) from a Doctor or Council Nurse.

EXCLUSION

1. Any child found to have head lice may be excluded from school until appropriate treatment has been completed.
2. In case of "outbreak" or persistent head lice control problem, as notified by teachers or nurse carrying out inspections, parents may be required to meet the Council (health) nurse to discuss strategies for elimination of head lice.
3. Students who do not participate in and for whom independent certification has not been provided, may be excluded until certification is provided or "outbreak" considered over.