



'Finding the Light Within'

Head Lice policy

Rational:

- Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed.

Aim:

- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- To ensure that an effective process for treating head lice is well known and consistently followed.
- To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice treatment.

School processes to assist with the prevention of Head Lice:

- Hair below collar length is to be tied up (hair accessories are to be in school colours).
- Information about the treatment for Head Lice will be included periodically in the school newsletter.
- If there is an outbreak of Head Lice at St Mary's a letter will be sent home to the relevant class/year level, informing parents/guardians to check and treat their child(ren) hair.
- **Students with a confirmed case of head lice return to school the day after appropriate treatment has started.**

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the four year review cycle.

Appendix:

- Example communication sent home to parents/Guardians
- *Treating and Controlling Head lice*, Victorian Government, Department of Health

[Click Here](#)



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Appendix

Dear St Mary's Families,

It has come to my attention that some students in the school may have head lice and I seek your cooperation in checking your child's hair.

Head lice do not transmit infectious diseases - they are transmitted by having head-to-head contact with someone who has head lice. Head lice are common in school-aged children.

What can you do?

I seek your cooperation in checking your child's hair and in those instances where head lice or eggs are found, treating your child's hair.

Please see the attached pamphlet *Treating and Controlling Head Lice*. This pamphlet has informative guidelines regarding detecting and treating head lice and eggs.

If head lice or eggs are found on your child's hair you need to inform the school and advise when the treatment has started.

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.

We at St Mary's are aware that head lice can be a sensitive issue and we are committed to maintaining confidentiality.

Regards,

Cathy Ferrari