FCPS Head Lice Policy

**Rationale:**
Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. Approximately 2-3% of primary school children are infested at any one time. While they do not carry or transmit disease, they are a cause of head itch and scratching, which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands; therefore, they need to be controlled. Anyone can catch head lice. Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump; they spread from person to person by head to head contact, and may also be spread by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and hats.

**Goals:**
- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- To ensure effective processes for treating head lice are well known and consistently followed.
- To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice and their treatment.

**Implementation:**
- While it is parents who have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children, the school will assist by offering up-to-date information, by offering a screening process, and by alerting parents of lice when detected.
- The school Principal will authorise all teaching staff to carry out visual checks of students heads for head lice (observations without touching of the students head or hair). The Principal will also identify specific staff members to carry out head lice inspections (physical examinations) of students’ head and hair for the presence of head lice.
- The school will ask parents to sign a permission form allowing their children to be inspected. Only children whose parents have returned the permission form (which forms part of the enrolment form) will be inspected, however, all students may be visually checked (see Head Lice Inspections Consent Form).
- All children checked or inspected will be provided with a confidential report indicating to parents the results of the inspection (see Head Lice Inspection Report), as well as advice on the latest information regarding head lice.
- Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, the Principal will ensure that the parents of any child found to have live lice are informed that their child is to be excluded from school until appropriate treatment has commenced. Students will need to be collected from school.
- Upon their return to school, parents of excluded children are to present the signed declaration on the Head Lice Inspection Report indicating that appropriate treatment has commenced. All excluded children to undergo another inspection from our trained head lice inspectors upon recommencement of school.
- All students in the grade where head lice have been detected will take home a note stating this fact to alert parents to be vigilant.

**Evaluation and Review:**
This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s four year review cycle.

**Budget:**
A program budget request is presented in term 4 of each year and is to be based on a program review for the previous budget period.

**Author/Responsibility/Date:**
EPP/M. Coyle/2014
FCPS Head Lice Inspections – Consent Form

Head lice are common amongst children, and remain the parent’s responsibility to manage. In support of parents, the school may perform head lice inspections of students throughout the year. The management of head lice works best when all children are involved in our inspection program.

The school is aware that this can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining student confidentiality.

Before any inspections are conducted staff will explain to all students what is being done and why, and it will be emphasised to students that the presence of head lice 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 head lice can be itchy and annoying and if you know you have got them, you can do something about it.

Trained staff from our school will conduct the inspection of students. The person conducting the inspections will physically search through each student’s hair to see if any lice or eggs are present. Muslim girls will only be inspected in the presence of women.

In cases where head lice are found, the person inspecting the student will inform the student’s class teacher and the Principal. The school will send a written notice home with the child and provide parents with comprehensive advice about the use of safe treatment practices which do not place children’s health at risk.

Please note that health regulations require that where a child has head lice, that child does not return to school until appropriate treatment has commenced.

Parent’s/Guardian’s Full Name: …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Address: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….. Postcode: …………………

Name(s) of Child/Children attending the school: Year Level:

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I hereby give my consent for the above-named children to participate in the school’s head lice inspection program for the remainder of this year.

Signature of Parent/Guardian ............................................................... Date: ..................

PLEASE NOTE: All students may be visually checked (no touching) for head lice by staff members irrespective of whether or not this consent form for a physical inspection is completed and returned.
FCPS Head Lice Inspection Report

Your child was checked today by trained staff at school for the presence of head lice. This was a:

- Visual Check (observation without physical contact)
- Inspection (physical search of the child’s head and hair)

The results of the check are:

- No lice or eggs detected.
- Dead eggs were found.
- Live eggs were found.
- Live lice were found.

Therefore the following action is required:

- No action required.
- Child’s hair must be treated with a method that has killed or removed live lice before the child is returned to school.

Please Note: All children who are found to have live eggs will be re-checked by trained staff soon after returning to school to ensure the infestation has been effectively treated.

Regards

Matthew Coyle
Principal

HEAD LICE TREATMENT REPLY SLIP

Please return to school at the same time that your child returns.

- I have treated my child’s head in a manner that has killed or removed the live lice.

Name of Child: ___________________ Grade: __________

Name: __________________________ Signature: ___________________