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## School Community Health (including Head lice) Policy

### Background

Primary responsibility for the prevention and control of infectious diseases lies with individuals, families and public health authorities. However, Huntingdale Primary School recognises that it has a role to play to support the prevention and control of transmission of infectious diseases by providing prompt and consistent response to detected or suspected cases of childhood infectious diseases. The school is not expected to give expert advice or treat students, which is the role of medical practitioners and health authorities as appropriate.

Head lice and scabies are infestations not infections. Head lice management is a complex issue with the responsibility for detecting and treating head lice resting primarily with the parents. However the school can give practical advice and support and give a consistent response to detected or suspected cases of head lice.

### Purpose

To ensure:

- The school is proactive in the prevention and control of the transmission of infectious diseases in schools.
- The school is proactive in the prevention and control of the transmission of head lice.
- Parents understand their role and responsibilities in notifying the school of illnesses and head lice.
- The school is compliant with Department of Education and Training's (DET) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) policies and procedures.

### Implementation

- The Principal has the overall responsibility of implementing this policy, but may delegate certain roles to suitably qualified staff.
- The school will have a staff member who coordinates Community Health and First Aid as part of their role statement.
- Prior to commencing primary school, children should have received their childhood vaccinations as per the National Immunisation Program Schedule. On enrolment the school are required to request and record the immunisation status of each child and all parents must show their child's immunisation certificate. See <http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/national-immunisation-program-schedule>

### Prevention

Huntingdale Primary School will:

- In the first newsletter each term, the Principal will put in an article reminding parents about notifying the school of any infectious childhood illnesses (e.g. chicken pox, colds) and head lice, ensuring students do not come to school while they have these.

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- Educate students on hygiene issues (e.g. washing hands, using tissues to blow your nose, sneezing into arm, leaving sharps on ground for an adult to pick up).
- Provide antibacterial lotion and wipes in each classroom to assist in minimising the spread of germs.
- Provide spill kits (for body fluids) in each learning area.
- Essential first aid items in classrooms e.g. band aids
- Have a yellow 'sharps' bin for the safe collection of sharp objects.
- Ensure gloves for first aid incidences and spills.
- Ensure that students and teachers cover cut or broken skin, especially with flowing fluids with band aids.
- Ensure children do not share hats as this can spread head lice.

#### Exclusion & Notification-Infectious Diseases

- The school must be aware of, and abide by, exclusion requirements during an outbreak of an infectious disease.
- The Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009 require children with certain infectious diseases, and children who have been in contact with certain infectious diseases, to be excluded from school for a specified period.
- During an outbreak of an infectious disease the school must:
  - Be aware of and abide by exclusion requirements
  - Not allow a child to attend school if:
    - They have been informed that the child is infected with an infectious disease, which requires exclusion, as described in Column 2 of Schedule 7 (the school exclusion table).
    - They have been informed that a child is a contact of a person who is infected with an infectious disease as described in Column 3 of Schedule 7 (The School Exclusion Table).
    - They have not been immunised against a vaccine preventable disease and are directed to do so by the Secretary and until the Secretary directs that such attendance can be resumed.
    - Please see the exclusion table at:  
<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/school-exclusion>
- If a child is suspected of having an illness that requires exclusion they shall be:
  - Sent to the School Office
  - Parents will be called to come and collect the child
- The parents should take the child to a medical practitioners to confirm a diagnosis for the child. They must inform the school of the child's condition so the school can communicate to other parents.
- On confirmation of the diagnosis, the school will make a decision if other parents need to be notified.
- All notifications will go on Tiq Biz to the class/es affected.

#### Exclusion & Notification- Head lice

- The school will ask parents to sign a consent form to conduct head lice inspections to cover the duration of the student's schooling.
- Only students who have this consent form signed can get their hair physically checked for head lice. However the school can undertake a visual check of a child's head, particularly if they are complaining of feeling itchy.
- If live lice or eggs and visually seen in a child's hair they will be sent to the Office.
- Parents will be called to come and collect the child.
- Parents should take the child home and treat the head lice accordingly.



- Students should not return to school until the head lice has been eradicated from the child's hair.
- The School Office will notify parents of class/es affected by a TiqBiz notification.

**Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's 3 year cycle or as needed to comply with DET policy changes.

**Certification**

This policy was endorsed by School Council at the meeting held on 15 November 2016.

Signed.....  
*[Handwritten Signature]*  
**Principal**

Signed.....  
*[Handwritten Signature]*  
**School Council President**

