

HEAD LICE PROCEDURES

Charlestown Public School

Endorsed by Staff: **March 2020**

Next Review: **March 2022**

Rationale:

Head lice infestations are a common occurrence, particularly in primary schools.

- about 23% of primary students have head lice at any one time
- anyone can catch head lice regardless of their age, sex, or how clean their hair is
- head lice move from one person's head to another via hair
- head lice do not survive long when they are off a human head
- head lice do not live on furniture, hats, bedding or carpet
- head lice have built up some resistance to head lice treatments

Implementation:

- Advice from NSW Health indicates that there is no need for students to be sent home or excluded from school because of head lice. Observing students scratching their heads is not a reliable or efficient means of assessing head lice prevalence in the school. Where one student has head lice this serves as a warning light that there is likely to be an infestation in either specific classes or across the whole school population, including staff.
- The school will send a letter home when infestations of head lice occur and request that parents examine their child's hair and undertake treatment where eggs or lice are identified.
- The school will also communicate information about head lice infestations and treatment for parents through the school newsletter.
- Staff will also encourage students to avoid head to head contact in group activities as far as possible.
- In rare cases where students are experiencing a chronic head lice infestation the school, parents and the local community may need to work together to treat the infestation.

The information and implementation steps contained within this policy have been taken from

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/studenthealth/conditions/headlice/index.php>