



LIHIR INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

HEAD LICE POLICY (Version August 11)

Rationale: An occurrence of head lice is a community health issue and not a school issue. Parents have the prime responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice. LIPS can support family and community in head lice management.

Aim: All members of this school community will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist families to manage head lice effectively.

Implementation:

Evidence shows that we cannot eradicate head lice but we can reduce the number of cases if all school community members work together in a coordinated manner. In this school community there is a commitment to do this in the following ways:

- All families (i.e. the families of students, staff and others working in the school community) will check at home the hair of all household members, on a weekly basis, for live lice. They will aim to use a head lice comb, for greater accuracy, and they will use an effective treatment if necessary.
- Where an active case is detected, the school encourages immediate treatment and return to school immediately after an appropriate treatment.
- The principal or their nominee will contact the family to ask that a student be checked and receive treatment if necessary.
- Parents/caregivers will notify the school if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced.
- The school will notify parents/caregivers of children in a classroom when more than one case of head lice is detected in the classroom in a week, to alert these families of the need to check more frequently.
- Families will notify the parents/caregivers of their child's friends where appropriate, so they have an early opportunity to detect and treat their children if necessary.
- A sympathetic attitude will be maintained by the entire school community to avoid stigmatizing/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures.
- Encourage children to learn about head lice so as to help remove any stigma or other negative experiences associated with the issue.



Dear Parents

Today we have become aware of the presence of head lice in some children's hair. Head lice spread very easily from child to child so we have checked all the children.

There are a number of children with lice at the moment.

Head lice is a very common problem in all societies and is certainly nothing to be scared of or embarrassed about. It is in no way linked to cleanliness.

This internet link will help with many questions.

<http://www.headlice.org/faq/>

We are asking that you now treat your child's hair with the appropriate chemical shampoo available from the pharmacy.

It is a school policy that the children do not return to school until they have had this treatment. This is to ensure that the lice do not spread too rapidly to other children.

We will check the children again next week and contact you again if the problem returns.

It is recommended that parents check their children's hair very regularly, as once there is head lice in the family it can sometimes be very difficult to eradicate without repeated treatments.

It is also recommended that the whole family are treated (adults also) and that sheets, pillows, hats, towels etc be washed.

Thank you for your assistance

Kind regards
Michael Bawden
Principal

