

HEAD LICE POLICY 2020

Head Lice Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to manage head lice at St. Michael's College.

Scope

Students and employees, including full-time, part-time, permanent, fixed-term and casual employees, as well as volunteers and people undertaking work experience or vocational placements.

Policy

At St. Michael's College, we recognise that the occurrence of head lice is the most common insect infestation in humans throughout the world. We acknowledge that although head lice infestation may affect people of any age, nationality, gender or socio-economic status, in Queensland, infestation occurs mainly in children of primary school age. It is seen as much a social issue as a health or educational issue, and the way that it is approached can have significant influence on a student's emotional, social and educational development.

Implementing strategies to minimise exposure to head lice is a priority for St. Michael's College.

Preventing Transmission

At St. Michael's College we acknowledge that the main route of transmission for head lice is head-to-head contact and promote measures, proven internationally, as helpful in the prevention of infestations including:

- discouraging the sharing of brushes and combs
- keeping long hair tidy
- providing information to families about the biology and control of head lice, and
- encouraging regular examinations of children's hair by family members.

Detection and Treatment

Parents/Caregivers have the prime responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children.

Parents/Caregivers are responsible for -

- regularly inspecting their child's head to detect the presence of lice or lice eggs
- immediately treating their child on discovery of lice or lice eggs, and
- notifying the College if their child is affected, and advise when treatment has begun

Students suspected of having live head lice or eggs present in their hair **are not** removed from class or College.

When the presence of head lice at the College is suspected, College staff (authorised by the Principal) may visually check (**no physical contact**) for head lice in a discreet and sensitive manner, under the following conditions:

- if the parent provides written or verbal consent
- if the child agrees
- if infection control guidelines are observed, and
- if student confidentiality is assured.

When live head lice or eggs are suspected/confirmed all families (in the class) are alerted by e-mail (health alert) that head lice have been found at the College.

Staff at St. Michael's College will undertake treatment only under exceptional circumstances when the principal has determined it necessary for a student's well-being and educational development. Treatment undertaken at the College must have parental approval (written or verbal) and be a [Queensland Health Head Lice Fact Sheet](#)



Care is taken with regard to the provision of College hats during periods of infestation, being mindful of the fact that head lice can only live a short time away from the human head (up to one or two days)

Distributing Information to Families

Newsletter items promote the Conditioner and Comb method of treatment in regular school and advise parents to be vigilant, particularly during periods of heavy lice infestation.

Policy Release Details

<i>Date of Policy:</i>	Jan 2020	<i>Supersedes:</i>	Previous
<i>Authorised by:</i>	Principal	<i>Date of Authorisation:</i>	Feb 2020
<i>Review Date:</i>	Annually	<i>Next Review Date:</i>	Jan 2021
<i>Policy Owner:</i>	St. Michael's College.		