SECTION THREE: STUDENTS

3.2 Head Lice Policy

Agreed Understandings:
1. Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. While parents/guardians have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, probably between 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.
2. An active management and awareness program has shown to have a significant effect on reducing head lice infestations.
3. Regular headlice checks will be conducted for students in Years Prep to 6. Parents must decide at enrolment time if they do not wish for their child/children to participate in this whilst they are enrolled at Benalla P-12 College.

Guidelines:
1. To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
2. To ensure that an effective process for treating head lice is well known and consistently followed.
3. To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice treatment.

Implementation:
1. The primary focus of the head lice management program will be to identify sources of infestations and actively encourage appropriate treatment.
2. 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.
3. The school will organise to have a team of volunteers trained in the detection of head lice.
4. The school will nominate a resource/support person (parent/guardian or staff member) who parents/guardians can contact at the school at nominated times.
5. Children found to have lice will be treated with a non toxic solution and returned to class. A list of the ingredients in the solution explaining it is all natural be provided. Permission notes to be sent home to parents requesting permission to have their child/children checked by volunteers.
6. All children screened and treated will be provided with a confidential report indicating to parents the results of the screening (Form 2). (not just students with live lice) A form will be provided to those found to have live lice, which must be returned to school with the child indicating action taken by the parent/guardian including treatment used and date commenced.
7. All families will be provided with advice on the latest information regarding head lice.
8. 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 attending school until appropriate treatment has commenced. The presence of eggs in the hair is not cause for exclusion.
10 The principal will also provide parents of children found to have live lice with information about safe head lice treatment practices and prevention.

11. The principal will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice appears throughout the year in the school newsletter, particularly at times of heavy outbreaks and notify parents/guardians to refrain from sending their children to school with untreated head lice. Advice about regular inspection of their child/children’s hair, inspection of other household members and notifying the school upon detection may also be included in the school newsletter.

**Basis for discretion:** The basis for discretion in implementing this policy lies with the Principal.

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<th>18 March, 2013</th>
<th>Recommended date for review: March, 2015</th>
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<td><strong>Date of ratification by School Council Version Two:</strong></td>
<td>Review &amp; Amendments made – Version Two</td>
<td>26 August, 2013</td>
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