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*Policy: Head Lice*

*School: Benalla P-12 College*

*Section: Students 3.2*

*Version: Three*

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## 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. Parents will be notified if students are found to have headlice or nits. Treatment must be carried out before the child can return to school.

### 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.
4. Up-to-date information available from website: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice>.

### Implementation

1. The primary focus of the head lice management 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 and by alerting parents of lice when detected.
3. All families will be provided with advice on the latest information regarding head lice at the beginning of the year.
4. Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, the campus assistant 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.
5. The campus assistant principal will also provide parents of children found to have live lice with information about safe head lice treatment practices and prevention.
6. The campus 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 headlice.

### Basis for discretion:

The basis for discretion lies with the Principal as an operational matter.

**Date ratified by Benalla P-12 College Council:** 22 August, 2016

**Recommended date for review:** August, 2018

<b>Date Implemented:</b>	<b>March, 2013</b>
<b>Reviewed and Amended Version One</b>	<b>October, 2013</b>
<b>Reviewed and Amended Version Two</b>	<b>May, 2016</b>

