

SWAN VIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head Lice Infestation Policy Guidelines



Children with head lice infestation are required to have their hair cleared of lice before returning to school. This can be achieved by parents using an insecticide product purchased from the local pharmacy and used according to the manufacturer's instruction. However, this must be followed by parents physically removing the lice from the hair after the recommended time period using a special 'nit' comb. Hair will need to be checked by parents on a daily basis for the following 10 days to ensure that all lice and eggs have been removed from the hair.

Alternatively, for those parents who do not wish to use an insecticide the 10-day hair conditioner method of removal can be used.

Head lice can be more easily removed by applying plenty of hair conditioner to dry hair before combing to remove live lice and eggs (nits). Any type of hair conditioner may be used, including generic 'home'; brands, together with a metal fine-tooth 'nit' comb. Suitable 'nit' combs can be purchased from most pharmacies

What are head lice?

Head lice are tiny insect parasites that live on your head and feed on your scalp (the skin covering your head). They reproduce by laying their eggs (nits) on your hair shaft (the part of your hair closest to the scalp).



How do you get head lice?

- Head lice are spread by head-to-head contact with another person who has head lice. This kind of contact includes doing group work at school, playing, or hugging.
- Head lice cannot fly, jump or swim.
- Head lice are not spread through bed linen, clothing or head gear (hats and helmets) as they do not leave the scalp unless they are moving to another scalp, or unless they are dead or dying.

Signs and symptoms

- Your scalp may itch as your skin reacts to the saliva of the head lice.
- Adult lice are usually dark brown and about 2 to 3 mm long.
- Eggs will be attached to the hair shaft. They can be very tiny and hard to see.

Checking for head lice

To check hair for head lice:

- Carefully comb plenty of hair conditioner through dry hair. The conditioner slows the head lice down so they can be trapped in the comb.
- Comb hair again in sections using a metal fine-tooth 'nit comb' (available from most chemists).
- Wipe the waste from the comb on a white paper towel. Look for head lice and eggs using a magnifying glass in strong light, such as sunlight.



**Swan View Primary
Head Lice Policy & Guidelines**



If you find head lice

- Choose the treatment method that best suits you and your family and follow the instructions carefully.
- Inform your school.
- When the treatment is completed and all head lice and eggs have been removed, continue to check hair weekly for further outbreaks.

Stay home from school

Your child may return to school when all live head lice have been removed. There is no need to stay away from school if there are only a few remaining eggs, but you must continue treatment over the following 10 days to ensure that all eggs and hatchlings have been removed.

Prevent further outbreaks

- Check hair regularly for head lice and eggs. Early treatment of head lice can prevent it spreading further to close contacts.
- Tie long hair back.
- Hair gel or mousse may help keep stray hair strands from coming in contact with other heads.
- Remind your child to avoid head-to-head contact with other children



A common, parasitic infestation of the scalp hair. Symptoms include scratching and the presence of 'nits' (eggs) and lice in the scalp hair.

Transmission	Head-to-head contact with an infected person
Incubation period	7 to 10 days
Infectious period	Until lice and eggs (nits) are killed
Exclusion	Exclude until after treatment has commenced and live lice removed