HEAD LICE
CRAIGIEBURN SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY

Rationale:
- Head Lice continue to cause concern and frustration for some parents, teachers and children. Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, our school community will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

Aim:
- This school policy is intended to outline roles, responsibilities and expectations of the school community, to assist with treating and controlling head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner.

Implementation:

It is the expectation of families attending Craigieburn South Primary School that they will:
- Check children’s hair for head lice on a weekly basis, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method;
- Ensure that the child does not attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with Health Infectious Diseases Regulations 2001), and return to school as soon as treatment has been done.
- Ensure that on the return of the student to school parents send back the signed form acknowledging that the child’s hair has been treated.
- Regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary;
- Notify the school if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced (in accordance with Health Infectious Disease Regulations 2001);
- Children with long hair will be encouraged to attend school with hair tied back;
- Use only safe and recommended practices to treat head lice;
- Notify the parents or carers of your child’s friends so they have an early opportunity to detect and treat their children if necessary;
- Maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatizing/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures;
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community especially around issues of head lice;
- Sign an agreement accepting the terms of the School Head Lice Policy, and a consent form for trained personnel to inspect their child’s head/hair.

To support families and the broader school community to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management the school will undertake to:

- Provide up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of the year or more frequently if required;
- Include information about head lice management in orientation and transition programs for new families/staff attending the school;
- Include information and updates in school newsletters;
- Include annual head lice updates for staff in-service programs;
- Provide practical advice and maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures;

References: curriculum@work cd
• Access community educational resources and support, such as primary school nurses, community health centres and local government;
• Exclude all children with live insects;
• Accept the advice of parents that appropriate treatment has commenced;
• Encourage children to learn about head lice so as to help remove any stigma or ‘bullying’ associated with the issue;
• Ensure a letter is given to all students involved in inspections, not only those found to have head lice, to help remove stigma and maintain confidentiality;
• Request that all families attending this school sign an ‘agreement’ to accept the conditions of the school’s head lice policy, and sign appropriate consent;
• To work with other schools, childcare centres, health services and pharmacists in our Local Government Area to achieve consistent management and policy across sectors;
• Review the head lice policy regularly and seek endorsement from the Community through the Craigieburn South School Council;
• Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community especially around issues of Head Lice;
• Continue to seek opportunities to increase our collective understanding of and response to managing head lice.

Resources:
“Scratching for Answers” published by the Department of Human Services

Brochures
School Nurse
City of Hume

Evaluation:
• This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.