



GLADESVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL No 5066 HEADLICE POLICY

Rationale:

Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. Probably between 2-3% of primary school children are infested at any one time. While they do not carry or transmit disease, they are the most common cause of head itch and scratching which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands; therefore, they need to be eradicated. Anyone can catch head lice. Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They spread from person to person by head to head contact, and by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and head gear such as hats.

Aims:

In order to prevent head lice infestations, the school will:

- respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively;
- ensure that an effective process for treating head lice is well known and consistently followed; and
- ensure that parents and caregivers are well informed about head lice treatment.

Implementation:

- Teachers or staff members suspecting that a child has head lice are to report their concerns to the Principal or Business Manager.
- Upon positive identification of head lice, the school will ensure that the parents of any infected child are contacted as soon as possible and informed that their child is to be excluded from attending school in accordance with the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1990 until the children have been treated.
- The school will provide parents of infected children with information about head lice treatment and prevention.
- Upon return to school, each excluded child will be required to provide proof that their child has been treated.
- The school 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.

Evaluation:

This policy will be evaluated in line with School Council cyclical review of policy documents and school and DEECD priorities.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in July 2014