



Help for Non-English Speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Kalinda Primary School on (03) 9876 3289.

HEAD LICE POLICY

PURPOSE

Kalinda Primary School (Kalinda PS) always has a need to be vigilant against a Head lice infestation.

Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. It is estimated between 2-3% of 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.

At Kalinda PS we aim to:

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

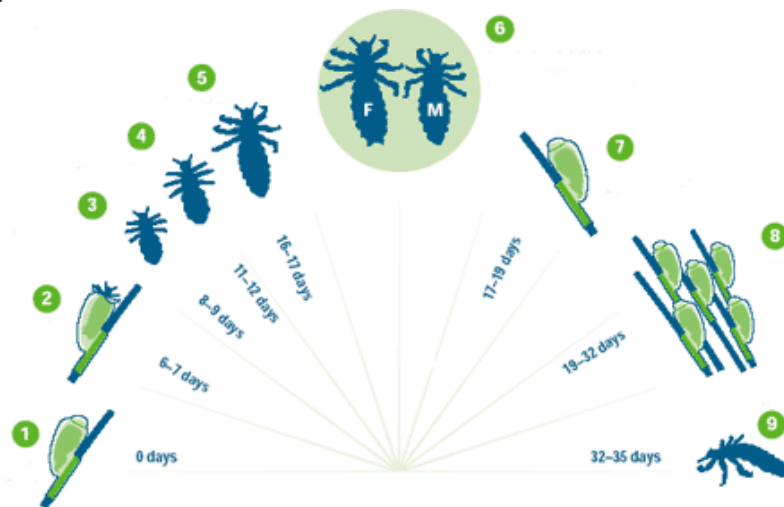
INFORMATION ABOUT HEAD LICE

Head lice have been around for many thousands of years. Anyone can get head lice and given the chance head lice move from head-to-head without discrimination, and by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and head gear such as hats.

Head lice:

- are small, wingless, blood sucking insects
- colour varies from whitish brown to reddish-brown
- spread from direct hair to hair contact with another person who has head lice
- do not have wings or jumping legs so they cannot fly or jump from head-to-head. They can only crawl.

Life Cycle of Head Lice



1. Egg is laid on hair shaft. Egg is called a nit.
2. Louse emerges after six to seven days.
3. First moult two days after hatching.
4. Second moult 5 days after hatching.
5. Third moult 10 days after hatching.
6. Emerging from their third moult as adult lice, the female and slightly similar male begin to reproduce.
7. Female lays first egg one or two days after mating.
8. Female can lay approximately three to eight eggs per day for the next 16 days.
9. Having lived 32 to 35 days the louse dies.

Finding Head Lice

Lice can crawl and hide. The easiest and most effective way to find them is to follow these steps:

- Step 1** Comb any type of hair conditioner on to dry, brushed (detangled) hair. This stuns the lice and makes it difficult for them to grip the hair or crawl around.
- Step 2** Now comb sections of the hair with a fine tooth, head lice comb.
- Step 3** Wipe the conditioner from the comb onto a paper towel or tissue.
- Step 4** Look on the tissue and on the comb for lice and eggs.
- Step 5** Repeat the combing for every part of the head at least 4 or 5 times
If lice or eggs are found, the child's hair should be treated.
Head lice eggs are small (the size of a pinhead) and oval. A live egg will 'pop' when squashed between fingernails.

Treating Head Lice

- Concentrate on the head - there is no evidence that you need to clean the house or classroom.
- No treatment kills all the eggs so treatment must involve two applications seven days apart.
- If you are using lotions, apply the product to dry hair.
- There is no need to treat the whole family unless they also have head lice.
- Only the pillowcase requires specific laundering; either wash it in hot water (at least 60 degrees centigrade) or dry it using a clothes dryer on the hot or warm setting.



- There is no product available that prevents head lice. Using the conditioner and comb method once a week will help you detect any head lice early and minimise the problem. Tying back long hair can help prevent the spread of head lice.
- Combs with long, rounded stainless steel teeth positioned very close together have been shown to be the most effective, however, any head lice comb can be use.

POLICY

- While teachers and other staff members may believe that a student is infested with head lice, they are not permitted or qualified to search a student's hair, inspect for head lice, or diagnose a case of head lice.
- Parents/guardians permission will be obtained before a student's hair is inspected for head lice.
- If permission is NOT given by the parents/guardians and the student is suspected of having head lice, the matter will be referred to the Principal or Assistant Principal and the parents/guardians will be phoned to collect the student.
- Teachers or staff members suspecting that a child has head lice are to report their concerns to the Kalinda PS Nurse who will carry out an inspection.
- Upon positive identification of head lice by the College Nurse, the Principal or Assistant Principal will ensure that the parents/guardians of any infected student 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 child has been treated.
- The Principal will ensure all parents/guardians of students in the same class and Year Level as the infected student will be informed so they can monitor their own children.
- Parent/guardian assistance from home is imperative to keep head lice to a minimum.
- The Principal will also provide parents/guardians of infected students with information about head lice treatment and prevention
- On the student's return to school, the Year Level Coordinator will ensure the student is seen by the First Aid Nurse who will check the Head lice treatment has been successful
- The Principal will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice appears throughout the year in the College newsletter, particularly at times of heavy outbreaks.

OTHER RESOURCES

- [Treating and Controlling Head Lice](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	March 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	March 2026