Ascot Vale PS Head Lice policy
Passed by SC Nov 15 2010

Rationale:
Head Lice continue to cause concern and frustration for some parents, teachers and children. 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.

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. The Department of Human Services indicates that most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time.

Managing Head Lice at AVPS/ what staff will do at school:

- Have a commitment to distribute up-to-date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents/guardians and staff at the beginning of every year and more frequently if required (available from website http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/)
- Full details about informing the community can be found at http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/health/headlice/alert.htm We will follow this advice and consult with the community as needed
- When students that are deemed to have live head lice, they are to be excluded from school until no live head lice are present. Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately to collect their child. Upon returning to school, parents/guardians are to indicate the treatment used and when it commenced
- Have a commitment to help reduce stigma and maintain confidentiality following students who have been found to have live head lice
- Require that parents/guardians refrain from sending their children to school with untreated head lice. *It should be noted that students may be treated one evening and return to school the next day and that the presence of eggs in the hair is not cause for exclusion. Parents/guardians need to be aware that one treatment is not sufficient to manage the problem. If a student re-attends school with live head lice the school may again exclude the student until the live insects have been removed.*
- the parents/guardians of those students found to have live head lice will be contacted immediately, asking parents/guardians to indicate the treatment used and when it commenced
- the Assistant Principal will be the head lice resource/support person (staff member) who parents/guardians can contact at the school at nominated times
Advice to families / what you can do at home:

- Children’s hair will be checked for head lice on a weekly basis, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method
- That your child does not attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with Health Infectious Diseases Regulations 2001)
- Regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary
- Parents/Carers will 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 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 stigmatising/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

This policy is to be reviewed every three years. Next review is due November 2013

Reference: