

HEAD LICE POLICY

This policy is informed by:

- **CMS Student Welfare Policy 2015**
- CMS Duty of Care Policy (*reviewed May 2016*)
- ACT Department of Education
http://www.det.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/805259/Head-Lice-Policy.pdf
- Head Lice Fact Sheet
<http://www.health.act.gov.au/sites/default/files/Fact%20sheets/Head%20Lice%20fact%20sheet%20%28June%202014%29.pdf>

Statement:

To provide procedures for the school to follow during outbreaks of head lice in order to restrict the spread of head lice amongst the students.

Rationale:

The Canberra Montessori School will not conduct routine mass head checks for lice, however occasionally if a staff member suspects a student(s) of being infested with head lice, parents will be contacted to ensure that effective treatment can be commenced. Parents have responsibility for assisting in the prevention and management of outbreaks of head lice through regular checks of the children's hair and commencing immediate treatment when head lice are detected.

Policy Responsibilities:

Principals will:

- Inform the school community about outbreaks and pass on information
- Manage a process for head lice outbreaks, guided by the procedures that accompany this policy.

Classroom teachers will:

- Be alert to possible outbreaks in their classrooms and follow the established procedures.

Parents will:

- Check their children's hair for head lice on a regular basis
- Collect their children from school and commence immediate treatment if head lice are found.

- Support schools in their efforts to minimise and manage outbreaks of head lice by ensuring their children do not attend school with untreated head lice.

Specific Practices and Procedures:

If a staff member has reason to believe that a member(s) of the class may be infested with head lice the following procedures should be followed:

No child should be singled out, however a child with active lice should be restricted from activities involving close contact with other children.

The Principal must be notified, the parents contacted immediately and requested to collect their child from school as soon as possible. The *Public Health Regulations 2000* require that children be excluded from school until effective treatment against head lice has begun.

Parents of other students in the class should be notified that an infestation is suspected and a request should be made for parents to check all their children for head lice. The Principal must also provide parents with a copy of the Head Lice information sheet for procedures on infestation and treatment.

If a student is not treated for head lice and appears to remain infected, the above procedures should be repeated.

Approved by:	Date:	Next Review Date:
Principal	07/08/2020	07/08/2022

