Head Lice Management (Students)

The Hazard - Head Lice

Head lice are tiny insect parasites that live on the human head and feed on the scalp several times a day. They are not dangerous, don’t carry diseases and are not a sign of poor hygiene.

Head lice outbreaks are a common problem in colleges. Parents/carers are primarily responsible for detecting and treating head lice but the college also has a role in the management of head lice outbreaks by providing information and support for parents and students.

Presbyterian Ladies’ College’s Policy

Presbyterian Ladies’ College recognises the need for a consistent and supportive approach for managing head lice outbreaks.

It is our policy that:

- When head lice is suspected in the college, students are provided with an alert notice to take home to their families requesting immediate treatment; and

- Students identified with head lice at Presbyterian Ladies’ College are not removed from class or excluded from the college.

A copy of the Head Lice Fact Sheet is made available to parents/carers.

We maintain a procedure for managing head lice outbreaks and inform the college community promptly; and

Presbyterian Ladies’ College Procedure for Managing Head Lice Outbreaks

When a member of staff suspects a student is infested with head lice, they are responsible for informing the Head of School of the suspected outbreak.

The Head of School is responsible for formulating a response strategy designed to contain the outbreak whilst minimising disruption to families of students affected.

Response strategies may include:

- Providing the affected student and entire class with the Head Lice Alert Notice;
• Expanding the alert to all students in the affected student's year;
• Expanding the alert to all students on the relevant college campus;
• Providing all parents/carers with a copy of relevant guidelines for treating head lice;
• Forwarding reminder letters in the event the outbreak is not contained; and
• Requesting parents to confirm that they have taken action.

Implementation

This policy is implemented through a combination of:

• Staff training and supervision;
• Effective record keeping procedures;
• Effective incident notification procedures;
• Effective communication procedures with the student’s parents/carers; and
• Initiation of corrective actions where necessary.