

Head Lice Inspection Program

Student's Name: _____ **Student's Date of Birth:** ___ / ___ / ___

The discovery of head lice can be a sensitive issue. Schools are asked to continue to exercise sensitivity towards this issue and to avoid any stigmatisation by maintaining student confidentiality.

The Victorian Department of Education and Training clearly outlines that the responsibility for detecting and treating head lice rests primarily with the parents, however at Northcote Primary School, we appreciate the opportunity to provide practical advice and support to families as appropriate.

In being proactive in any head lice infestations, we request that all children are permitted to be inspected by the school-appointed first aid officer or an approved staff member where a child is presenting with the symptoms of a possible head lice infestation.

Before any inspections are conducted, staff will explain to all students what is being done and why and it will be emphasised to students that the presence of head lice in their hair does not mean that their hair is less clean or well-kept than anyone else's. It will also be pointed out that head lice can be itchy and annoying and if you know you have them, you can do something about it.

The inspection of students will be conducted by the school-appointed first aid officer or an approved staff member.

The person conducting the inspections will physically search through each student's hair to see if any lice or eggs are present.

In cases where head lice are found, the person inspecting the students will inform parents and carers immediately and request the student be removed from school until the day after the first treatment has been carried out by parents and carers. For more information, please refer to the DET *Head Lice Policy*.

We also take this opportunity to remind families that it is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that the school is immediately notified about a head lice infection.

Please note that the law requires that the child does not return to school until appropriate treatment has commenced.

I hereby **agree/do not agree** (*please circle*) to head lice inspections of my child.

Parent/Carer Signature: _____ Date: ___ / ___ / ___

Alternative Parent/Carer Signature: _____ Date: ___ / ___ / ___

1 March 2022