



## NORTHERN BAY P-12 COLLEGE HEAD LICE POLICY NBC015

### 1. PURPOSE

While parents have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, the college also has a role in the management of head lice and providing support for parents and students. This policy aims to ensure that an effective process for treating head lice is well known and consistently followed and ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice treatment.

### 2. BROAD GUIDELINES

- 2.1. The Campus Principal will distribute up-to-date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of every year and more frequently if required.
- 2.2. It is important for parents to understand that anyone can catch head lice.
- 2.3. Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They spread from person to person by head to head contact, and by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and head gear such as hats.
- 2.4. On enrolment parents give written approval for headlice checks. This consent form is valid until the student leaves the college
- 2.5. Parents who refuse to allow headlice checks to occur at school will need to gain a doctor's certificate prior to students return to school, stating that head lice are not present.
- 2.6. Parents need to refrain from sending their children to the college with untreated head lice.
- 2.7. Parents need to be aware that one treatment is not sufficient to manage the problem.
- 2.8. To help reduce the stigma of detection and maintain confidentiality, a letter will be given to all students involved in inspections.

### 3. IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1. While teachers and other staff members may believe that a child has head lice, they are not permitted or qualified to search a child's hair, inspect for head lice, or diagnose a case of head lice.
- 3.2. A campus nominated and trained person will carry out head lice checks as required.
- 3.3. Teachers or staff members suspecting that a child has head lice are to report their concerns to the Campus Principal or Campus Assistant Principal who will organise the authorised inspections of the child's hair.
- 3.4. Upon positive identification of head lice, all students will be issued with a notice informing parents/ carers of treatment required. The student concerned is not excluded from school on that day but a phone call is to be made to the parent from the campus.
- 3.5. The Campus Principal will provide the parents child with information about head lice treatment and prevention.
- 3.6. Students who are found with live head lice will be re examined on return to school.
- 3.7. If a child re-attends with live lice, the parents will be notified and the child withdrawn from the learning community until treatment is undertaken in accordance with the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1990.
- 3.8. Parents are encouraged to regularly (once a week) check their child's hair for the presence of head lice.

### 4. EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the college's three year review cycle.

Document #	Committee Responsible	Review Date	Public Location	Ratified
NBC015	Leadership Team	August 2015	Website	June 2015
	<b>Related Documents</b>			
NBC015A	Headlice Action Notice	August 2015		June 2015