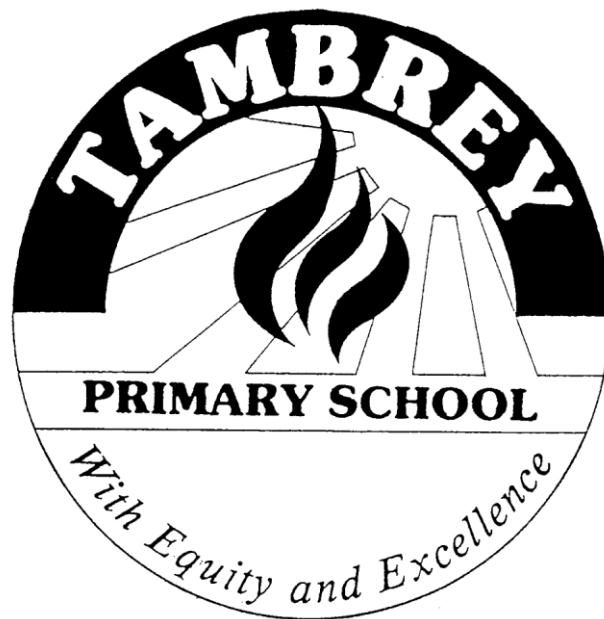


Tambrey Primary School

Head Lice Policy



Implementation Date: August 2012

Review Date: 2015

HEAD LICE – BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Identification of children with head lice is essential to prevent person-to-person spread of head lice. Head lice are spread from direct head-to-head contact with another person who has head lice. They are unable to jump or fly.

Students must be treated with sensitivity if head lice are found. The Department of Health advises that students do not necessarily need to be excluded from class activities until the end of the school day. Students may be given tasks which do not involve close group work and remain at school for the remainder of the day. The principal, however, does have authority to exercise discretion and withdraw a student from school programs at any time.

Due to limited resources, the school does not routinely check and is unable to treat children for head lice. However, under Part 3, Division 2, r 29, of the Education Regulations 2000, *Head lice Inspections*, the principal of a government (public) school may authorise a member of the teaching staff or another officer at the school to examine the head of any student for the purpose of ascertaining whether head lice are present. Community Health staff (school nurses) are also authorised to undertake examinations. Parents are not authorised to check the hair of other students for head lice.

Responding to an Outbreak of Head Lice

If head lice are found, then the parents of all students in the class will be informed and requested to examine and treat their children if required. There are standard school letters for this purpose. Parents must be advised that head lice elimination requires at least 10 days of follow up treatment with daily removal of head lice and that treatment must continue until all eggs and hatchlings have been removed.

The Student Health Care policy requires that the principal and staff, in consultation with the school community, develop agreed management, communication and education procedures for reducing the frequency and impact of head lice infestation. School procedures at Tambrey Primary School will include:

- providing parents with information about head lice including prevention, transmission, detection and effective treatment strategies as described by the Department of Health;
- informing the school community about the processes the school will use to monitor and respond to outbreaks of head lice;
- contact parents using the standard school letters if head lice have been detected on their child or on a child in the class;
- promote regular checking of hair by parents through the school newsletter, assemblies, and other forms of communication;
- involve school support staff, e.g. the school nurse, in the development of individualised management processes, for students in response to repeated infestations of head lice.

For further information from the Department of Health see: www.health.wa.gov.au/headlice



TAMBREY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Lot 4225 Tambrey Drive, Karratha WA 6714 Ph (08)91442020 F (08)91442644 www.tambreyps.wa.edu.au Principal Mrs K Benson

Date: _____

Dear Parent/Guardian

Your child, _____, was found to have live head lice in his/her hair today. Please check his/her hair thoroughly and commence treatment using an approved head lice treatment and following the instructions carefully. The Health Department recommends using the conditioner method. Other appropriate treatments are available from a chemist. A fact sheet is available from www.health.wa.gov.au/headlice or from the school office.

It is suggested that all members of the family be checked for head lice, and treated if they are found to have head lice.

Once treatment has commenced, you are requested to complete the tear off return slip and send it back with your child.

Head lice has a 21 day cycle and will require you to check your child's hair regularly during this cycle. The use of conditioner or olive oil can assist in removing nits (dead eggs) from hair. Brushing twice a day can damage any live head lice that may be missed and prevent them from laying eggs.

Should you find it difficult to eliminate the head lice please feel free to contact the School Community Nurse through the office or Community Health Service, telephone: 9144 1111.

Yours sincerely

Kym Benson

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HEAD LICE CLEARANCE

This is to certify that _____ has been treated with _____ (Name of the treatment) on _____ (date of the treatment)

Signed

Date



TAMBREY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Lot 4225 Tambrey Drive, Karratha WA 6714 Ph (08)91442020 F (08)91442644 www.tambreyps.wa.edu.au Principal Mrs K Benson

Dear Parent/Guardian

It has been brought to my attention that there has been an outbreak of head lice amongst children in your child's class. I seek your cooperation in checking your child's hair thoroughly and, if needed, commence treatment using an approved head lice treatment and following the instructions carefully. The Health Department recommends using the conditioner method. Other appropriate treatments are available from a chemist. A fact sheet is available from www.health.wa.gov.au/headlice or from the school office.

It is suggested that all members of the family be checked for head lice, and treated if found to have head lice.

Head lice has a 21 day cycle and will require you to check your child's hair regularly during this cycle. The use of conditioner or olive oil can assist in removing nits (dead eggs) from hair. Brushing twice a day can damage any live head lice that may be missed and prevent them from laying eggs.

Should you find it difficult to eliminate the head lice please feel free to contact the School Community Nurse through the office or Community Health Service, telephone: 9144 1111.

Yours sincerely

Kym Benson
Principal