



## Head Lice Policy

Te Kauwhata Primary School supports and encourages the treatment of head lice. The school recognises that head lice are very common, but they also recognise that lice should be treated quickly to prevent them from spreading.

If a child presents with the following signs:

- Persistent scratching, particularly behind the ears and the nape of the neck accompanied by a red rash
- Tiny silver white eggs at the base of the hair shaft
- Small pale brown lice. You can use a magnifying glass and a fine tooth comb under a strong light to identify lice.

The school will contact parents and ask them to come into school and take the child home. The request by the school to ask parents to pick up their child is in line with the following guidelines from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education.

Link - MOH

<https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/head-lice>

Link - MOE

<https://parents.education.govt.nz/primary-school/wellbeing/head-lice/>

A newsletter will be sent home containing the following information if nits have been detected in a classroom.



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Dear Parent/Caregivers,

There have been some cases of head lice detected at the school.

Head lice are very common so there is no need to be alarmed, however they should be treated quickly to prevent them from spreading.

We are asking that all parents examine their child's hair and look for the following signs:

- Persistent scratching, particularly behind the ears and the nape of the neck accompanied by a red rash
- Tiny silver white eggs at the base of the hair shaft
- Small pale brown lice. You may wish to use a magnifying glass and a fine tooth comb under a strong light to identify lice.

Head lice can be treated quickly and effectively by simply following these steps:

1. Purchase a specialist head lice treatment and apply it accordingly as per directions on the pack.
2. Examine all family members' hair, and treat everyone found to have head lice at the same time.
3. Wash out the treatment and use a nit comb to remove the dead lice and eggs.
4. Every night, between treatments, put conditioner in your child's head, don't rinse it out, and comb your child's hair using the nit comb. This step is very important and it is a cost effective way to remove the lice and nits.
5. Repeat the treatment in 7-10 days if lice are still present or eggs are found within 1cm of the scalp.

As a precaution, any items which may harbour lice such as bed linen, towels and combs should be washed in hot soapy water. To prevent lice in the future, all family members should avoid sharing items such as clothing, brushes or hats from each other or from friends. If we see live lice in your child's hair we will call you and ask you to come and pick your child up and keep them at home until treatment starts. This is to prevent further spread and is within MOE guidelines.

Yours sincerely,

Once the treatment starts the child is able to return to school and resume normal activities. No child will be excluded from school as long as the lice issue is being treated. The school will work with families who struggle to afford the necessary treatment and at times will ask parents for permission to treat the head lice at school.

Approved by Board \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson – signed for Board of Trustees Date

Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson – signed for Board of Trustees Date