**BELLBRAE PS: HEAD LICE GUIDELINES**

**Head Lice**

Dear parents and carers, as many of you are well aware, head lice can become a frustrating issue to deal with at some stage of your child’s schooling. As such, we all need to be proactive in preventing infestation, or the spread of any potential cases.

**What are Head Lice?**

Pediculosis or 'head lice' are small, wingless insects that live, breed and feed on the human scalp. They cannot transmit any infectious diseases. Direct contact is required for transmission from person to person, where head lice crawl from head to head.

**How can you help at home?**

Parents and carers have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice.

Responsibilities include:

* not sending their children to school with untreated head lice
* using safe treatment practices which do not place their child's health at risk
* regularly checking for lice or eggs in the hair of their child and other household members
* tie your child’s hair back if it is long
* notifying the school if their child is affected and when treatment commenced.

**How do we try and control head lice at school?**

When a student is identified with live head lice at school, we are required to:

* at the end of the school day, provide the student with a note to inform their parent/carer that their child may have head lice
* exclude the student from school until the day after treatment has commenced, as set out in the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019, school exclusion table – refer to the health.vic website: [School exclusion table](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.health.vic.gov.au%2Finfectious-diseases%2Fschool-exclusion-table&data=05%7C02%7CBrigid.Chapman%40education.vic.gov.au%7C1aba33de92d14428725d08ddc9b078da%7Cd96cb3371a8744cfb69b3cec334a4c1f%7C0%7C0%7C638888481994928468%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4UvH6zyHdiIhVWG7H4z7BqicBNw3tFLc4CbHtr1P0rs%3D&reserved=0).
* use discretion to avoid identifying individuals when informing the school community about an infestation.
* alert parents of other students in the same class as the affected student.

**How can you help the school?**

* Although schools are not required to conduct visual head lice checks, parents are encouraged to provide consent should the school deem it necessary to physically examine a potential case of infestation to prevent the further spread.

For further information, please access: [Head lice (nits) | Better Health Channel](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.betterhealth.vic.gov.au%2Fhealth%2Fconditionsandtreatments%2Fhead-lice-nits&data=05%7C02%7CBrigid.Chapman%40education.vic.gov.au%7C1aba33de92d14428725d08ddc9b078da%7Cd96cb3371a8744cfb69b3cec334a4c1f%7C0%7C0%7C638888481994956127%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2YaUVTicbfieGpM6sXVpaz%2BPxqufCgdVd2m%2Fe19CDvw%3D&reserved=0)