

## HEAD LICE POLICY

Under the School Education Act 1999, a principal may exclude a child with head lice from school until treatment has commenced. Head lice are tiny insect parasites that live in people's hair and feed on the skin on their scalp. They lay eggs (nits) on the hair closest to the scalp and may cause frequent itching. All members of the school community are required to familiarise themselves with the Department of Health's *Head Lice* information and fact sheets.

If live head lice are identified in a Narrogin Primary School student's hair:

- The student will be treated with sensitivity.
- Any other students who reside in the same household will be checked by the school nurse or a designated staff member for head lice.
- The parent/guardian will be contacted and asked to collect the student from school for treatment. In the event that a parent/guardian is not contactable, the student will remain in class and be given tasks that do not involve close group work.
- The student is permitted to return to school once treatment has commenced and all live head lice have been removed.
- A few remaining eggs are permissible for attendance however, treatment must continue until all eggs and hatchlings have been removed.
- The parents of all students in the class will be informed by letter, and requested to examine and treat their children if required.

In the event that a child is experiencing severe or recurring head lice infestations and the parent cannot be contacted, the principal may initiate a head lice treatment plan at school. The parent will be subsequently notified by letter.