



## HEAD LICE PROCEDURE

**Purpose:** This document outlines the procedure to be taken by YCS teachers if a student is suspected as having head lice and/or nits.

**Definition:** Head lice are tiny, wingless insects that live in human hair and feed on the blood circulating in the scalp. Nits are the eggs of adult head lice.

**Rationale:** Head lice infestation is a common problem throughout the world in all socioeconomic groups. Considerable myth and misinformation surrounds head lice and their management. Where one student has head lice this serves as a warning light that there is likely to be an infestation in either specific classes or across the whole school population, including staff.

NSW Health does not recommend excluding children with head lice from school due to the following reasons:

- Head lice are not known to transmit diseases.
- Exclusion from school or childcare is not an effective way of breaking the cycle of head lice infestations.
- Head lice eradication is most effective if the whole school community works together to treat the infestation, for example running the [Nitbuster](#) program.

### **School Procedure:**

1. Teacher to make entry on Sentral stating that the student has/or is suspected to have head lice and/or nits.
2. Teacher to issue track in Sentral for the Office to inform parents via letter on Sentral *Documents* -> YCS *Procedures* -> *Head lice parent letter*.

### **Parent/Caregiver Responsibilities:**

1. Regularly check your children's hair and/or teach older children to check their own hair
2. Tie back and braid long hair.
3. Keep a fine tooth head lice comb in the bathroom and encourage all family members to use it when they wash their hair.
4. Undertake treatment where eggs or lice are identified.
5. In rare cases, where students are experiencing a chronic head lice infestation, the P&C may need to work together to treat the infestation via the [Nitbuster](#) program.

Further information can be found at [NSW DoE - Head Lice](#)

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**Endorsed by:** Executive Team, P&C, SRC

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