Dear Parent 21 May 2015

I am writing to advise you that we suspect that nits/head lice are present in the hair of some students within the school.

Head lice are only found on the human head or hair. Head lice do not live on furniture, hats, bedding, carpet or anywhere else in the environment. Treating anything other than the human head does not eradicate head lice.

NSW Health advices that there are two main treatment options to remove head lice:

* [Mechanical removal](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/headlice/Pages/treatment.aspx#bookmark1)
* [Chemical removal](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/headlice/Pages/treatment.aspx#bookmark2)

#### [Choosing the right treatment for you or your child](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/headlice/Pages/treatment.aspx)

Before you choose a treatment for head lice, consider the following:

* Mechanical removal is the preferred way to detect and treat head lice because it is effective, does not contribute to insecticide resistance in head lice and also presents a low risk of skin irritation.
* If you prefer to use chemical treatment, make sure that the heads you treat are infested with head lice.
* Registered chemical treatments that contain insecticides to kill lice are usually safe, but excessive use of other substances, such as home remedies and other insecticides, can cause irritation. Speak to your local pharmacist to identify the registered treatments that are safe for you and your child.
* Always read the product label before applying and use as directed.
* Natural products like tea tree oil are not recommended. If you don’t want to use chemical treatment, use the mechanical removal described above.
* Do not use methylated spirits or kerosene on your child’s head.
* Avoid treating babies with chemical treatment.
* Avoid chemical treatment on any scalp that is irritated or inflamed.
* Protect children’s eyes when treating with any product.
* There is no preventative treatment available for head lice. Treating the whole family with chemical treatment as a precaution contributes to head lice becoming resistant to the products used.

Please check your child’s hair for nits/lice tonight using the methods recommended in information from NSW Health <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/headlice/Pages/treatment.aspx> attached is an overview of the treatment methods.

If you find any eggs or lice please commence treatment as recommended.

Further information on head lice is available on the NSW Health website (details above) or through the Department’s website at <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/studenthealth/conditions/headlice/index.php>.

I appreciate your assistance in this regard.

Yours sincerely

Teuni Ploeg