School should be a happy, positive place for all. Health, happiness and learning cannot be separated in their importance to every child.

Promoting and maintaining the health and wellbeing of students is a vital aspect of Essex Heights Primary School’s commitment to student care. The school Health Centre is attended by a First Aid Officer, ensuring that all students have access to expert first-aid and health care with minimal disruption to their schooling. Parents can rest assured that their children will receive appropriate, individualised care throughout their years at EHPS.

**First Aid**
The Health Centre is a fully equipped First Aid area which can accommodate all manner of illness and injuries. Children and staff have access to the Health Centre throughout the school day for management of any issue (physical or emotional) that may arise. In addition to this, classrooms and teachers are equipped with mini First Aid kits to manage minor classroom mishaps, so as to ensure minimal disruption to your child’s learning wherever possible.

**Health Issues**
Health issues such as Asthma and allergies are increasing amongst primary school aged children. If your child is asthmatic, has an allergy, diabetes or epilepsy you will probably want to speak with the First Aid Officer and formulate a specific plan for optimal management of your child’s health whilst at school. Medical forms are sent out at the beginning of each school year to ensure information is kept up to date, and parents are encouraged to notify the Health Centre of any change in your child’s condition.

**Medication**
Many children require medication administration whilst at school. Some children have ongoing medication needs for conditions such as attention deficit disorders; others have short term needs such as an antibiotic for several days. Whatever your child’s needs, the school First Aid Officer is available to manage children’s medication in a safe and appropriate manner whilst they are at school.

**Other Medical Needs**
Sometimes students have greater medical needs which can be managed in the school environment by the school First Aid Officer, enabling greater attendance and productivity from their schooling. This may include adjustments to routine following hospital admission (i.e. assistance with toileting), short-term wound and dressing management or liaison with hospital staff to ensure all the child’s medical needs are being met whilst at school.

**Head Lice**
Whilst head lice are relatively common, they are uncomfortable and can be quite a distraction to the child. The school First Aid Officer performs checks of children’s hair when required and supports the school community in managing head lice in the most appropriate manner.

**Parent Support**
Lastly, but certainly not least, the School First Aid Officer is available in the Health Centre throughout the school day (make an appointment or just drop in) to chat to parents about any issues they may have with their child’s health or welfare. Whether this is just a sympathetic ear or the first step in obtaining further support and intervention, the First Aid Officer is happy to listen and assist.
Head lice are a complex issue that creates great confusion, disruption and loss of valuable school time. Parents have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice. The role of the school is to provide information based on current research and to assist and support families in their management of head lice.

IF head lice are detected on your child at school, your child must be kept at home until appropriate treatment has commenced. (Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001).

We can call catch head lice, but children may get them more easily because they often have their heads in contact and lice mainly spread by direct contact between hair. Most schools will have some children with head lice at any given time. Head lice infestation is more of a social problem than a public health problem, as head lice DO NOT transmit any disease.

SCHOOL MEASURES TO ASSIST FAMILIES WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF HEAD LICE

1. All parents will be requested to complete a permission form to allow trained staff to check for the presence of head lice.
2. Parents will be notified when their child has head lice. Information will be sent home and advice may be given to the school nurse if requested (Contact the health centre on 9888 1849)
3. Parents of other children in the class will receive a note stating that head lice are present in the classroom, and will be asked to inspect their child’s head every second day for the next 10 days.
4. Regular inclusions in the school newsletter with current information regarding the management of head lice will continue.
5. Metal head lice combs are available for loan from the Health Centre.
6. Further information is available on the Department of Human Services website

CONSENT FORM TO CONDUCT HEAD LICE INSPECTIONS

This permission will cover the duration of the student’s schooling at:

ESSEX HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Throughout your child’s schooling, the school will be arranging head lice inspections of students.

The management of head lice infection works best when all children are involved in our screening program.

The school is aware that this can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining student confidentiality and avoiding stigmatisation.

The inspections of students will be conducted by a trained person approved by the principal and school council.

Before any inspections are conducted the person conducting the inspections will explain to all students what is being done and why and it will be emphasised to students that the presence of head lice in their hair does not mean that their hair is less clean or well kept than anyone else’s. It will also be pointed out that head lice can be itchy and annoying and if you know you have got them, you can do something about it.

The person conducting the inspections will check through each student’s hair to see if any lice or eggs are present.

Person’s authorised by the school principal may also visually check your child’s hair for the presence of head lice, when it is suspected that head lice may be present. They do not physically touch the child’s head during a visual check.

In cases where head lice are found, the person inspecting the student will inform the student’s teacher and the principal (insert other(s) if required). The school will make appropriate contact with the parents/guardians/carers.

Please note that health regulations requires that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until appropriate treatment has commenced. The school may request the completion of an ‘action taken form’, which requires parents/guardians/carers to nominate if and when the treatment has started.

Parent’s/guardian’s/carer’s full name: __________________________________________

Parent’s/guardian’s/carer’s full name: __________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________________ Post code: _______

Name of child attending the school: __________________________________________

I hereby give my consent for the above named child to participate in the school’s head lice inspection program for the duration of their schooling at this school.

Signature of parent/guardian/carer: __________________________________________ Date _____________

Signature of parent/guardian/carer: __________________________________________ Date _____________