

Pickering Brook Primary School
Nit Response Policy

To address the on-going problems of nit re-infestation in the school, the following response will take place when a student is identified with either:

- Live nits, or
- Eggs suspected of being alive

Nit Response Procedures

Upon the sighting on a child of live nits or eggs suspected of being alive the school will:

1. Immediately withdraw that child from class and place the child in the first aid room.
2. The school will immediately call the parents to collect the child from school. It is expected that the child will be collected promptly, however, if not, the child will have school work to complete and have access to drinks and food. If the school is unable to contact the parent or the parent is unable to collect the child, a school staff member will supervise that child until such time that he/she is collected or leaves school at closing time, as they would on any school day.
3. A child with a few remaining eggs will have their parents called and may be placed in the first aid room and supervised for the remainder of the school day.
4. All children in that child's class, and their siblings in other classes, will be inspected for lice and potentially live eggs.
5. Other children identified with nits or potentially live eggs will also be withdrawn from class immediately and their parents called to collect their child/ren from school (Refer to points 2 and 3 above).
6. When picking up their children, parents will be required to complete a 'Nit Treatment Undertaking' detailing how they will be treating their child. All effective nit treatments require multiple treatments across the 10 day life cycle of the nit insect and involve combing the child's hair with a fine tooth nit comb to remove nits and eggs.
7. Children withdrawn from school due to nits will be entitled to return when a course of treatment has commenced as described in the Parental Nit Treatment Booklet.
8. 10 days after treatment commences, all children in the affected classroom/s will be re-inspected by a staff member delegated by the principal. If nits or potentially live nit eggs are found those affected students will be withdrawn again as for step 1 and 2 above.
9. Additional nit inspections may also take place in affected classrooms within the 10 day incubation period of the nit insect.

It is anticipated that this rolling process will deal with any nit problem or identify sources of re-infestation for additional advice and support.

The school will also conduct additional random nit inspections during the school year in an attempt to deal with isolated nit occurrences before they become a major contagious problem.

If parents do not wish their child to be checked for nits, and the school is of the opinion that the child has nits, then the parent will be called and requested to check their child themselves at school or take the child home for checking.

References

Section 27 of the School Education Act 1999

Department of Health see: www.health.wa.gov.au/headlice