

St Columba's Catholic School

Contagious Health Conditions Procedure

Rationale:

To minimise the spread of contagious health conditions such as impetigo (school sores), scabies, headlice (kutu) or other conditions, deemed to be spread through contact.

Purpose:

1. Parents are responsible for checking their own children's health and notifying the school if their child has impetigo, scabies, headlice etc. It is recommended that children's hair is checked once a week for headlice by caregivers.
2. The Headlice kit is available from the teacher resource area in the school library. This kit will be available as part of the health syllabus taught in the school. This will enhance children's knowledge and development of self-help skills.
3. Parents will be notified by letter or phone call if there is headlice in their child's classroom.
4. If children are not treated, parents will be contacted by the school and asked to treat their children's hair. Children will be checked to ensure that the conditions have cleared.
5. If the children remain untreated, then the school will exercise its right to exclude them until the treatment is carried out, as per instructions on the medication.
6. The Public Health Nurse is a resource person to the school on this issue. She is available to talk to groups of teachers and / or parents on request.
7. School Newsletter will provide information about current school health issues which empowers children and parents, to do something about the problem.

Conclusion:

The Board of Trustees support this policy, and agree that children who are infected and not receiving treatment will be excluded from the school, as a measure to minimise the spread of contagious health conditions.