LEARNING SERVICES
All schools belong to a Learning Service. These are located in regions throughout Tasmania.

LEARNING SERVICES (NORTH)
2 Invermay Road, Inveresk 7250
Phone: (03) 6336 2594  Fax: (03) 6334 3350
Email: Learning.Services.north@education.tas.gov.au

LEARNING SERVICES (NORTH-WEST)
60 Wilmot Street, Burnie 7320
Phone: (03) 6434 6389  Fax: (03) 6431 8085
Email: Learning.Services.NW@education.tas.gov.au

LEARNING SERVICES (SOUTH)
213 Cambridge Road, Warrane 7018
Phone: (03) 6212 3119  Fax: (03) 6212 3111
Email: Learning.Services.S@education.tas.gov.au

HEAD LICE (NITS) IN TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

Please contact:
Marketing Services
Department of Education
GPO Box 169
HOBART TAS 7001
Email: marketing@education.tas.gov.au
Web: www.education.tas.gov.au
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We are their future
DID YOU KNOW?

• As parents or carers, you have the primary responsibility for detecting and treating head lice.
• If your child has head lice, you must treat your child with a recommended treatment. Your child may return to school after treatment has begun.

WHAT ARE HEAD LICE?

• Head lice have been around for thousands of years. Anyone can get head lice. It doesn’t mean you are dirty or have dirty hair; head lice don’t care whether hair is clean or dirty.
• Head lice are small, wingless, blood sucking insects. Their colour varies from whitish-brown to reddish-brown. Head lice only survive on humans. If isolated from the head they die very quickly (usually within 24 hours).
• People get head lice from direct head to head contact with another person who has head lice. Head lice do not have wings or jumping legs so they cannot fly or jump from head to head. They can only crawl.

WHERE TO START

To help prevent the spread of head lice, we ask that you:
• Notify your child’s school as soon as you detect head lice or nits in your child’s hair.
• Wash your child’s hair in a lice-killing shampoo available from your local pharmacy.
• Apply plenty of conditioner and comb your child’s hair with a fine nit comb, looking out for the lice.
• Remove empty egg cases or ‘nits’.
• It is recommended that you check the hair of all family members for the presence of head lice and treat them if necessary.

WHAT YOUR SCHOOL WILL DO

• The school will notify you if there is reason to believe your child has head lice.
• The school will notify parents if there are known cases of head lice in a particular class and ask parents to check their children’s hair.
• The school will NOT administer treatment to your child.

TIPS

• The lice themselves are hard to spot, but look out for brown or grey insects about the size of a match head that lurk at the roots of your child’s hair.
• A nit will not easily come off the hair but dandruff will.
• Teach your child not to share brushes, combs, hats, swimming caps or hair bands.
• Braid long hair or tie it back while your child is at school.

WHERE CAN YOU GET MORE INFORMATION?

• A pharmacist or doctor.
• Talk to your child’s teacher or principal.
• Visit the Department of Education website: www.education.tas.gov.au
• Visit the Department of Health and Human Services website: www.dhhs.tas.gov.au