



## **HEAD LICE POLICY**

### **RATIONALE**

To prevent the spread of the highly contagious condition of head lice between students in our school.

### **DEFINITION**

Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. Probably between 2-3% of primary school children are infested at any one time. While they do not carry or transmit disease, they are a cause of head itch and scratching, which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands; therefore, they need to be controlled.

Anyone can catch head lice. Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump.

### **AIMS**

- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- To ensure that an effective process for treating head lice is well known and consistently followed.
- To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice treatment.

### **PROCEDURES**

As head lice is spread from person to person by head to head contact, they may also be spread by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and hats, so this is to be discouraged.

While it is parents who have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children, the school will assist by offering up-to-date information, and by alerting parents of lice when detected.

The principal will ensure that the parents of any child found to have live lice are informed and they are encouraged to commence the appropriate head treatment prior to their child returning to school.

When returning to school the affected child will bring a letter signed by the parent ensuring eradication treatment has commenced.

The principal will also provide parents of children found to have live lice with information about head lice treatment and prevention.

The principal will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice appears throughout the year in the school newsletter, particularly at times of heavy outbreaks.

## **EVALUATION**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

*Verified by the School Leadership Team in February, 2016*