

## Head Lice Policy

Written by	<i>School Nurse</i>
Date approved by School Council	<i>May 2017</i>
Date of Review	<i>May 2020</i>

### Rational

Head lice are small wingless blood sucking insects; their colour varies from whitish-brown to reddish brown. Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. 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.

### Aims

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

### Implementation

- Anyone can catch head lice. Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They spread from person to person by head to head contact, and may also be spread by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and hats
- 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, by offering a screening process conducted by the school nurse, and by alerting parents of lice when detected
- The school will ask parents to sign a permission form allowing their children to be inspected by the school nurse for the presence of head lice. Only children whose parents have returned the permission form will be inspected, however, all students may be visually checked
- All children inspected will be provided with a confidential report indicating to parents the results of the inspection as well as advice on the latest information regarding head lice
- Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, the Principal will ensure that the parents of any child found to have live lice are informed that their child is to be excluded from attending school until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced
- The School Nurse will provide parents of children found to have live lice with information about head lice treatment and prevention
- A notice stating head lice are present in the classroom will be sent out to the whole class with head lice treatment provided
- 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 infestations
- It is encouraged that students keep hair neat or tied back if long. Students are discouraged from sharing personal items such as hats, combs or hair ties

### Evaluation

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