

# HEAD LICE

## POLICY

### PURPOSE

- 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.

### SCOPE

- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice and their treatment.

### POLICY

- 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.
- If head lice infestation is an obvious concern for a student, Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, the Principal/Head lice coordinator will ensure that parents/carers are informed that they must begin treatment immediately and information regarding head lice treatment and prevention will be provided.
- Monitoring of the students infestation will be ongoing until it is resolved.
- Parents are requested to notify the school if they find that their children are affected by head lice.
- Where a case of head lice has been reported or detected parents/carers will be informed via a notice that advises of the infestation and recommends checking and treating the child's hair if lice or eggs are detected.
- The Head lice coordinator 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.

**Evaluation:** This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council ....

November 2018