

HEAD LICE

POLICY

Rationale:

- 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 the most common cause of head itch and scratching, which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands; therefore, they need to be eradicated.

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 carers are well informed about head lice 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 by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and head gear such as hats.
- Teachers or staff members suspecting that a child has head lice, are to report their concerns to the Principal who will organise the authorised staff to carry out the necessary inspections providing a consent form has been received.
- Upon positive identification of head lice, the Principal will ensure that the parents/carers of any infected child are contacted as soon as possible and informed that their child is to be excluded from attending school in accordance with the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1990, until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced.
- The parents of all students in that class and those travelling on the same transport will be informed of the outbreak by letter and the Principal will also provide them with information about head lice treatment and prevention.
- Upon return to school, each excluded child will be required to provide to the Principal either a report from a medical officer indicating that no live lice are present, an assurance by the parent/carer that treatment has taken place indicating the treatment used, or undergo another inspection by an authorised staff member.
- 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.
- All parents will be asked to sign a "Consent Form - Head Lice Inspections." No inspections will be carried out on students who have not returned the signed form.

Evaluation:

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

Principal _____ School Council President _____

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

June 2011