HEADLICE POLICY

RATIONALE

- Most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time. While they do not carry or transmit disease, they are a cause of head itch and scratching, which may lead to infection, therefore, they need to be controlled.
- Head lice are transmitted by having head to head contact with someone who has head lice and this happens frequently in families, schools, and childcare centres.
- While parents/guardians have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, schools also have a role in the management of head lice infections and in providing support for parents/guardians and students.

AIMS:

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

IMPLEMENTATION

It is our expectation that:

- Children with long hair will attend school with hair tied back.
- Children’s hair will be checked for head lice on a weekly basis, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method.
- That your child does not attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with Health Infectious Diseases Regulations 2001).
- You will regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary.
- Parents/carers will notify the school if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced (in accordance with Health Infectious Disease Regulations 2001).
- Treatment for head lice is repeated at one week intervals until all live lice are eradicated.
- On enrolling their children, parents will be asked to sign a permission form allowing their children to be inspected 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 school personnel will be provided with up-to-date correct information regarding head lice, and training in their detection and treatment.
- Teachers are authorised to carry out visual checks of students heads for head lice (observations without touching of the students head or hair).
- The principal will also identify specific staff members to carry out head lice inspections (physical examinations) of students head and hair for the presence of head lice.
- 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 appropriate treatment has commenced.
- The principal will also provide parents of children found to have live lice with information about head lice treatment and prevention.
- Upon their return to school, parents of excluded children must present the signed declaration indicating that appropriate treatment has commenced. All excluded children to undergo another inspection upon recommencement of school.
- 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.

EVALUATION

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