This school policy is intended to outline roles, responsibilities and expectations of the school community to assist with treating and controlling head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner.

1.0 VISION

- Whilst parents have the main responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, our school community will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.
- To minimise anxiety by acknowledging that most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time.

2.0 ACTION

2.1 Parents and guardians have the responsibility to:

- regularly (preferably once per week) inspect their child/children’s hair for lice or lice eggs (using conditioner and a head lice comb is the most effective method)
- not allow your child to attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009)
- maintain a sympathetic attitude to avoid stigmatising or blaming families who are finding it hard to control head lice
- act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community around issues of head lice
- upon detection of head lice, notify the school and advise when treatment has commenced

2.2 To support parents and guardians and the broader school community to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management the school will:

- distribute up to date and accurate information on the finding, treating and controlling head lice to parents and staff when required
- include information about head lice management for new families/staff attending the school
- include information and updates in school newsletters
- provide practical advice and maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising or blaming families who are finding it hard to control head lice
- act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community around issues of head lice
- seek opportunities to increase our collective understanding of and response to managing head lice
- encourage children to learn about head lice to help reduce stigma

2.3 Head lice inspections

- Head lice inspections may take the form of;
- visual checks without physical contact:
• do not require parent/guardian consent and are made by people authorised by the principal, e.g. classroom teachers

• examination of a student:
  • requires written parental/guardian consent, usually obtained at enrolment
  • are made by people authorised by the principal and school council e.g. school nurse or parent volunteer.

• Distribute consent form which parents sign at the time of enrolment.
• Only inspect the heads of children whose parents have given consent.
• Respect the wishes of parents/families who elect not to participate in a school head lice check.
• Ensure that any person employed by the school, or volunteering, to undertake head lice inspections will adhere to the school policy.
• Provide a letter to all children involved in head lice inspections (not just those found to have head lice) to help reduce the stigma and maintain confidentiality.
• Children identified with live lice should be provided with a letter for their parent/guardian at the conclusion of the school day.
• Exclude child from school until the day after treatment has commenced, as set out in the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, School Exclusion Table.
• Follow the recommendations of the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009 in that the responsibility to exclude a child from the school rests with the principal or person in charge.
• Accept the advice of parents that appropriate treatment has commenced.
• Alert parents/guardians of an infestation, particularly the parents of other students in the same class as the affected child/children.
• Use discretion about informing the school community about an infestation. The Department of Human Services indicates at any one time there are likely to be cases of head lice in most schools, so it is not advocated that the principal informs the whole school community each time head lice are detected.

3.0 REVIEW

3.1 This policy will be reviewed regularly as part of the School’s policy review schedule.