

# HEAD LICE

This policy was last ratified by School Council in November 2017

## **Rationale:**

Pediculosis (head lice infestation) is a common, recurring problem in schools. This policy aims to minimise the incidence of lice and the transmission of lice between students in the school and assist in the management of the head lice. While parents/guardians have the 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 to parents/guardians and students. The Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1990 require that any students with head lice should be excluded from school until they are treated.

## **Implementation:**

- Parents/guardians are required to give permission for appropriately trained school staff to check children's hair as required during the school year. This is a part of the enrolment pack and lasts for the duration the child is in the school.
- If the school has been advised that there has been an outbreak of head lice in a particular class, delegated staff will inspect all children's heads in that class as well as any siblings and their class/es for lice.
- Any child with live lice will be immediately removed from the classroom and parents/guardians will be contacted asked to collect their child.
- Any child with eggs present in their hair will receive a letter to take home to inform parents that treatment and close monitoring is required.
- Cases of head lice will be treated as a health issue and in a sensitive manner so that children and families are not stigmatized or teased.
- Children found to have live head lice can only return to school when their hair has been checked by a trained staff member to ensure that there are no more live lice present.
- Children who have eggs present will be monitored to ensure that the treatment has been successful and that live lice have not hatched in the interim.
- Staff members will be available to assist parents to identify live lice and eggs and to discuss treatment.
- The school will distribute up to date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents/guardians and staff at the beginning of each year and more frequently if required.
- Records of both the number of cases and the frequency of occurrence are kept in the office.

## **Evaluation:**

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