

HEAD LICE

Policy

Rationale:

Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. They do not carry or transmit disease but they are a most common cause of head itch and scratching which may lead to infection

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 guardians 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.
- Headlice can only live off the human body for a maximum of 24 hours. Therefore bedding, hats and clothing can be placed outside in the sun for a full day and no headlice will survive.
- Staff are not permitted to actively check students hair for headlice. Headlice can be observed by staff at times, they may also be asked by students or parents to check their head if they are itchy.
- Staff members suspecting that a child has head lice, are to report their concerns to the Principal.
- The principal will ensure that the parents of any infected child are contacted as soon as possible and informed that their child has headlice and should not return to school until treatment has commenced.
- There is no requirement for students to be excluded from school if they have headlice.
- The principal will also provide parents of infected children with support and advice about head lice treatment and prevention.
- Family members of students who have headlice do not have to be treated.
- The principal will ensure that information relating to the prevention and treatment of headlice appears throughout the year in the school newsletter, particularly at times of heavy outbreaks.

Evaluation:

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

This policy was presented to School Council in....

August 2016