

# **HEAD LICE POLICY**

## **Rationale:**

- Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. 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 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.
- While teachers and other staff members may believe that a child is infested with head lice, they are not permitted or qualified to search a child's hair, inspect for head lice, or diagnose a case of head lice.
- Teachers or staff members suspecting that a child has head lice, are to report their concerns to the Assistant Principal who will organise to carry out the necessary inspections.
- Upon positive identification of head lice, the Assistant Principal will ensure that the parents 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 their child has been treated.
- The Assistant Principal will also provide parents of infected children with information about head lice treatment and prevention.
- Upon return to school, each excluded child will be required to provide the Assistant Principal with a return slip stating the date and type of treatment.
- The Assistant 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.
- The school operates a voluntary head lice inspection policy run by qualified and/or trained personnel. Children who have returned the annual head lice inspection permission form will be regularly inspected for signs of lice infestation and notified of the results.

