Head Lice Policy

| Date approved by School Council | 20th June 2012 |

**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 a cause of head itch and scratching, which may lead to infection and therefore need to be controlled. Head lice infection can be controlled with a systematic approach by parents/carers.

**Aims**
To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
To ensure effective processes for treating head lice are well known and consistently followed.
To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice and their 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 may also be spread by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and hats.
- As part of the enrolment process parents are encouraged to sign a permission form to give consent to have our specific staff members check for the presence of head lice. These staff members are funded by the school to examine students for head lice on a regular basis.
- Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, parents of any child found to have live lice are informed that their child is to be excluded immediately from attending school until appropriate treatment has commenced. (It should be noted that students may be treated and return to school, and that the presence of eggs in the hair is not a cause for exclusion. Parents need to be aware that one treatment is not sufficient to manage the problem. If a child re-attends with live lice the school may again exclude the child until the live insects have been correctly removed).
- A letter or notification will be sent home to all parents of children who have had their hair checked by our specific staff member. This notification will be sent home regardless of whether your child has head lice or not, to let parents know their child’s hair has been checked.
- A letter of notification to parents of those children who are suspected of or who have had head lice detected to incorporate a detachable return slip, asking parents to indicate that treatment has commenced. Students will only be re-admitted to school once this slip has been signed and returned to the School Office.
- Information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice will appear throughout the year in the school newsletter

**Evaluation**
This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three year review cycle or earlier if circumstances deem it necessary.