HEAD LICE POLICY

RATIONALE:
At any given time most schools have some students with head lice.

While the parents have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, the school has a role in providing support for parents and students.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:
- The school has a responsibility to promote the physical health and wellbeing of all students.
- Confidentiality and the right to privacy will be respected at all times when dealing with sensitive matters.

IMPLEMENTATION:
The following three procedures will ensure our support for the parents, students and staff:

1. **School Newsletter - Information Dissemination**
   To keep parents informed about the management and treatment of head lice, it is recommended that at the start of every school year an up-to-date information pamphlet is attached to the school newsletter with a reminder to parents on their and the school's role in managing head lice.

2. **Appropriate Treatment**
   Under the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, it is stated that a child must be **excluded from school** until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced.

   This means a child with head lice can be treated one evening and return to school the next day, even if there are some eggs present.

3. **Inspection**
   Local government workers no longer have authority to examine students for head lice without written parental permission.

   If it is thought a student has head lice, their Year Level Coordinator is to ring the parents to inform them.

   If it is necessary to inspect the student's head, a written permission form must be sent home first for the parents to sign. The Assistant Principal or School Health Promotion Nurse will then inspect the child's hair.

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

This policy was last ratified by School Council in