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## Cranbourne West Primary School No. 5189

### **HEAD LICE POLICY**

#### **RATIONALE:**

Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. Probably between 3-5% of primary school children are infested at any one time. They do not carry or transmit disease, they are the most common cause of head scratching which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands; therefore, they need to be eradicated.

#### **GENERAL STATEMENT:**

Anyone can catch head lice. Head lice spread from person to person by head to head contact.

To help reduce the incidence of head lice infestation and/or reinfestation, the school will,

- conduct regular checks
- educate parents/guardians with updated information
- respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- ensure that an effective process for treating head lice is well known and consistently followed

#### **IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES:**

- Parents/guardians have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children. The school will assist by offering up-to-date information, by offering a screening process, and by alerting parents of lice when detected.
- The school will ask parents/guardians to sign an annual permission form allowing their children to be screened by our trained personnel for the presence of head lice. Only children whose parents have returned the permission form will be checked. Permission may be rescinded at any time by the student's parent/guardian.
- When the school is notified by a parent/guardian that their child was found to have head lice or where a child is found to have head lice by staff, the whole grade will be given Form 2. This alerts the parents to be vigilant and check their child regularly. Consistent with Health (Infections Diseases) Regulations 2001, the Principal/First Aid Co-ordinator will ensure that the parents of any child found to have live lice are informed that their child is to be excluded from attending school until appropriate treatment has commenced. They will be given Form 3 which contains information about head lice.
- The Principal/First Aid Co-ordinator 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.

#### **EVALUATION:**

This policy will be reviewed on a cyclic basis.