

## POLICY STATEMENT

# HEAD LICE POLICY

Ratified by School Council: October 2018

Review date: November 2020

## 1. CONTEXT

Head lice is a condition which afflicts many school aged children at some point in their school years. It can be spread in many ways and continues to cause concern and frustration for parents, teachers and children.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

- To provide clarity to staff and parents about the management of head lice occurrences.
- To ensure that families affected by head lice are treated with dignity.

## 3. IMPLEMENTATION

### Staff responsibilities

- The principal distributes up to date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of each year or more frequently if required.
- Classroom teachers may visually check each child's hair for the presence of suspected head lice where the relevant consent form has been completed. No physical contact occurs during a visual check.
- Once two children in a grade are reported with head lice a notice is sent home to each family in the grade, advising them of the situation and requesting parents to inspect their child's hair.
- An empathetic attitude for families experiencing head lice problems is maintained at all times.

### Parent responsibilities

- Parents are requested to complete a consent form upon enrolment (see Appendix) allowing school staff to visually check each child's hair for the presence of head lice.
- The school encourages parents to check their children's hair on a regular basis.
- Children with long hair are encouraged to tie it back.
- Parents are requested to notify their child's classroom teacher or the school office if lice is found and confirm that treatment has commenced.
- Health regulations requires that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until appropriate treatment has commenced. The school may request the completion of an 'action taken form', which requires parents/guardians/carers to nominate if and when the treatment has started.

## 4. APPENDIX

The consent form below is included in student enrolment forms when students commence at our school.

## 5. EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed three yearly or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

**CONSENT TO CONDUCT HEAD LICE INSPECTIONS**

School staff may perform visual checks of students who are suspected of having head lice or where there are a number of reported cases in a particular class.

I consent to my child participating in the school’s head lice inspection program for the duration of their schooling at Selby Primary School.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_