



St Francis of Assisi  
PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

## HEADLICE POLICY

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### Rationale

Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. Probably between 2-3% of primary school children are infested at any one time\*. 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.
- If a teacher suspects a child to have head lice they are to send them to First Aid where the school nurse will inspect the child's hair.
- Upon positive identification of head lice, the Principal, Deputy Principal or School Nurse 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 the child has been treated.
- The School Nurse will also provide parents of infected children with information about head lice treatment and prevention.
- The 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.