

# TALBOT PRIMARY SCHOOL

## HEADLICE POLICY

### *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 swollen lymph glands. A small percentage of primary school children are infested at any one time. While parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice schools also have a role in the management of infestations.

### *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:*

- When appropriate, classroom activities will reinforce the information that; anyone can catch head lice, they cannot fly, hop or jump but 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 although head lice cannot live off the body for any length of time.
- While it is the parents who 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 to sign a permission form allowing their children to be screened by trained school staff as part of the enrolment package for the presence of head lice. Only children whose parents have returned the permission form will be checked.
- All children screened will be provided with a confidential report indicating to parents the results, as well as advice on the latest information regarding head lice.
- Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, the principal 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 and live lice removed.
- Children who are found to have live lice at school will be sent home for treatment.
- The principal will also provide parents of children found to have live lice 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.

***Responsibility:***

- It is the responsibility of principals to ensure their staff are aware of this policy and to provide each of them with a copy. It is the responsibility of individuals to abide by this policy
- It is the parent's responsibility to monitor and treat their own children and to inform the school when there is a live infestation.

***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....*

2017

***Principal's signature:*** \_\_\_\_\_

***School Council President's signature:*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Date:*** \_\_\_\_\_