



POLICY FOR THE CONTROL OF HEAD LICE

The school will implement the guidelines noted below in an attempt, to the best of its ability, to control the problem of head lice. It is recognized that the source of head lice is the home and family, not the school. Many cases of the infection are caught from close family and friends - not from schools.

The head teacher, with the support of the school's governing body, implements the following guidelines:

- 1.1 The school will regularly distribute educational information about head lice (e.g. at the beginning of every school year as part of a pack containing information on other matters) and a note will also be sent informing parents when cases arise at school.
- 1.2 If the school discovers that a pupil at the school has a live, moving louse, it will inform the child's parents in confidence so as to enable them to treat the infection. The parents will be given the latest information and advised to take the child to their G.P. or local pharmacy for treatment.
- 1.3 Should the problem continue to be commonplace after 4 weeks, the head teacher can organize a meeting between the parents and school nurse.
- 1.4 If the problem continues amongst the same children at the school, the head teacher may ask the school nurse to assess the situation by inspecting only those classes affected.
- 1.5 A child who suffers from head lice will not be excluded from school but the parents' co-operation will be sought to keep the child/children at home until the lice have been successfully treated. The only exception to this is when carrying head lice becomes a continuous problem and is part of a wider problem concerning the child's hygiene. In such cases, the child would consequently be excluded under the Education Act until the hygiene problem is under control, and this includes eradicating the head lice.
- 1.6 It is recommended that children with long hair tie it up whilst at school.

Accepted: Autumn term 2013

Chairperson: _____

Head: _____

Date: _____