WARRAGUL NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

HEAD LICE

**POLICY**

**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; therefore, they need to be eradicated. Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They spread from person to person by close personal contact.

**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 and ongoing awareness.
* To ensure that school community members (parents, guardians, teachers) understand that the responsibility of detection and treatment of head lice rests primarily with parents.

**Implementation:**

* Treatment and control of head lice will be an on-going subject for the newsletter.
* Once a staff member or parent notifies the office of a suspected case of head lice, a notice will be sent home informing parents of children in the grade to check their children.
* Parent/ guardians of children with head lice will be notified and students will be allowed to return to school once the parents/guardians notify the school that the children have been treated.
* Shoulder length hair or longer is to be tied back.

**Evaluation:**

* This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s five-year review cycle.

 This policy was amended by School Council **21st February 2006**

This policy was amended by School Council **19th September 2012**

This policy was amended by School Council **20th February 2013**

This policy was amended by School Council **15th August 2017**