



# St Saviour's Primary School

## Safe at School

### Head Lice Management Policy

(May 2014)

#### **VISION STATEMENT**

St Saviour's Primary School is an educational community living out Mercy values each day.

Our Vision is:-

- That each child is valued and respected.
- That each child's giftedness is recognised.
- That each child's potential is realised.
- That each member of the school community strives for goodness.

#### **RATIONALE**

St Saviour's Primary School seeks to promote the health and wellbeing for our students through providing direction for the management of head lice.

#### **VALUES**

St Saviour's Primary School is a Catholic Primary School committed to the provision of a safe, healthy and caring environment. This Head Lice Management reflects the values espoused in the Mission of a Catholic School by promoting respect, responsibility, responsiveness and resourcefulness.

#### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Head lice continue to cause concern and frustration for some parents, teachers and children. This school policy is intended to outline roles, responsibilities and expectations of the school community to assist with treating and controlling head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner.

Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice our school community will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

## DESIRABLE CONSEQUENCES

### Principal and Staff Responsibilities:

- Distribute up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of the year or more frequently if required.
- Include information about head lice management in orientation and transition programs for new families/staff attending the school.
- Include information and updates in school newsletters.
- Only exclude children from school with live insects.
- Accept the advice of parents that appropriate treatment has commenced.
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community around issues of head lice.

### Parent Responsibilities:

- To check children's hair for head lice on a weekly basis, at home.
- Ensure that their child does not attend school with untreated head lice.
- Regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary.
- Notify the school if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced.
- Ensure their children, with shoulder length hair, attend school with hair tied back.
- Use only safe and recommended practices to treat head lice.
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community especially around issues of head lice.

### Student Responsibilities:

- To treat fellow students respectfully.
- To keep shoulder length hair tied back.
- To let parents and staff know if they are experiencing any of the symptoms of head lice.

### DEFINITIONS:

Reference to 'Parents' in this Policy includes Guardians and Caregivers.

**Head lice** (*Pediculus capitis*) are small, wingless, egg laying insects found on the human head. They grow to about 3.5mm (the size of a sesame seed or pin head). Head lice live on the hair and feed by sucking blood from the scalp. They are pale grey in colour before feeding and reddish brown after feeding.

Live eggs (sometimes called nits) are glued to the hair shaft within a distance of 1.5cm from the scalp. They hatch in 7-10 days as young lice (nymphs). It takes up to ten days for the nymphs to become mature lice and begin laying eggs. Adults are larger than nymphs and a mature female lays up to eight eggs per day.

### REVIEW HISTORY:

Date	Event	Changes / Comments
09/2005	Rev00	Initial Publication of Policy

09/2013	Rev01	Policy Review
06/2014	Rev02	Updated format, minor changes

**TO BE REVIEWED: 2015**