Head Lice Management Policy

**Rationale:** The occurrence of head lice is the most common insect infestation in humans throughout the world. Head lice infestation may affect people of any age, nationality, gender or socio-economic group and they have no preference for cleanliness, hair colour or hair type. As head lice cause no disease or illness their presence is as much a social issue as a health or educational issue and detection and treatment needs to be addressed in a way that respects the emotional, social and educational development of the child. People’s dignity will be respected and protected at all times.

**Guidelines**

To help control head lice, St Mary’s School will:

- Distribute school policies and procedures as well as relevant information for the control, detection and treatment of head lice at the beginning of each year, provide updates and inform parents at times of infestation.
- Advise parents whenever head lice are found in the school.
- Support parents with practical advice and a sympathetic attitude while stating the school’s expectations about responding to head lice infestations.
- Wherever possible, minimize head to head contact in classes with head lice as this is how they transfer from person to person.
- Request parents not to send children back to school with head lice until treatment has commenced.
- Visually check children’s hair if suspected head lice.
- Undertake treatment only under exceptional circumstances when the Principal has determined it is necessary for the well-being and educational development of the child.

To help control head lice, we the parents with children at St Mary’s School:

- Take responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice in our children.
- Ensure children with head lice do not attend school until treatment has commenced.
- Regularly inspect our children’s hair to detect head lice and initiate treatment.
- Notify the school if our child has head lice and advise when treatment has begun.
- Follow recommendations, proposed by Queensland Health, and detailed in the school policies and procedures to ensure a co-ordinated approach is taken to the head lice infestation.
- Comply with school expectations regarding the treatment of head lice.