Kala Primary School

HEAD LICE POLICY 2026

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 a cause of head itch and scratching, which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands; therefore, they need to be controlled.

Aims:

- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- To ensure effective processes for treating head lice are well known and consistently followed.
- To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice and their treatment.

Implementation:

- Anyone can catch head lice. Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They 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.
- While it is 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.
- All staff members will be authorised to carry out visual checks of students' heads for head lice (observations without touching of the student's head or hair). The Principal will also identify specific administration staff to carry out head lice inspections (physical examinations) of a student's head and hair for the presence of head lice.
- Parents will be asked to sign a permission form authorising the school to conduct a physical examination of their child for the presence of head lice, where deemed necessary. The inspection will only be carried out by identified, administration staff.
- Only children whose parents have returned the permission form (which forms part of enrolment) will be inspected, however, all students may be visually checked.
- All children checked or inspected will be provided with a confidential report indicating to parents the results of the inspection as well as advice on the latest information regarding head lice and relevant treatment.
- Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, and Department of Education and Training (DET) Guidelines, parents of any child found to have live lice will be informed that their child has head lice and is to be excluded from school until appropriate treatment has commenced. Lice eggs are not grounds for exclusion.
- Parents of children found to have live lice will be provided with information about head lice treatment and prevention.
- Students may return to school once the appropriate treatment has commenced. Information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice will be available at the school.

Review and Ratification

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review cycle.

Created date	**February 2026**
Consultation	Consultation with the School Council and the school community will take place in Term 1, 2026 (or as soon as the School Council is appointed)
Endorsed by	Principal Tracy Knight
Endorsed on	
Next review date	Term 1, 2026 To ensure ongoing relevance and continuous improvement, this policy will be reviewed every 1-2 years thereafter*