ST ALBERT’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
HEAD LICE POLICY

Introduction

St Albert’s Catholic School is committed to ensuring that all students in our care are safe and that their wellbeing is maintained. From time to time, head lice is found within schools and St Albert’s catholic School will act upon the situation immediately and notify parents.

Rationale

To protect students, volunteers and staff from the spread of head lice while respecting each parent and/or caregiver’s right to administer individual treatment for the child/ren in their care. This policy is to be read in conjunction with the ‘Consent to Inspect for Head Lice’ and the ‘Head Lice Letter Home’ documents which are appendices to this policy.

Prevention

- **Education.** Staff professional development, guest speakers from Health Services, Newsletter articles, information brochures and student information in health lessons.

- **Hygiene.** Regular cleaning of classroom pillows, rugs & puppets. Professional cleaning of school carpets.

- **Regulation.** Written permission to check for head lice sought from parent/caregivers. Hair longer than shoulder length is to be tied back. Sun hats are not to be shared.

Notification

When a parent/caregiver notifies the school that lice has been discovered in the family, the ‘Head Lice Letter Home’ will be sent home with all students in the classes involved, and a note placed in the school newsletter. The parent accepts responsibility for checking and treating the children as required. Students may only return to school when free of live lice infestation.

If the presence of head lice on a child is suspected by staff, verification of permission to check for lice is sought from the student’s file by the authorising officer. If permission has been given, the officer will perform the check in a discreet and caring manner. If no permission has been given for school staff to perform the check, the parent/caregiver is informed of a suspected outbreak by phone or note home, and the parent accepts responsibility for checking and treating as required.
Further Action

If the check confirms the presence of lice, the student is removed from direct contact with other students, and the parent/caregiver is telephoned and asked to collect the student as soon as practicable. If a student has been excluded due to the presence of head lice, a re-entry inspection will take place before the student is allowed back into their normal classroom routine.

If the check shows:

1. there is no evidence of head lice or eggs or
2. there is no evidence of head lice but eggs are present

then the parent/caregiver is notified of the check and the outcome.
The parent/caregiver is responsible for continued checking and treatment as necessary.

Signed:

Chairperson School Board:   Sean Drake   ……………………………
Principal:   Jason Mittiga ……………………………
Date: April 2013   Review Date:   April 2016
ST. ALBERT’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
HEAD LICE POLICY

CONSENT TO INSPECT FOR HEAD LICE

The Department of Human Services recommends that everyone have their hair checked every week for head lice and nits.

Checking and treating children’s hair is by law a parent’s/caregiver’s responsibility. Sometimes schools offer to arrange head checks if there is a school community outbreak of head lice.

This form seeks consent for your child’s head to be inspected if the need arises.

I understand and accept that any children found to be infested will be withdrawn from close contact with other children until collected from school for treatment by parents/caregivers. I understand that I will need to collect my child promptly if head lice or nits are evident as a result of this check.

Please tick one box

☐ I give permission for the school staff to arrange for a First Aid or Senior Staff member or other suitably qualified person to check my child’s hair for head lice and nits. I understand any such check will be conducted sensitively and discreetly.

☐ I do not give permission for the school staff (or other suitably qualified person) to check my child’s hair for head lice and nits.

☐ I will do this. I understand that my child can be excluded from school if staff believe he or she may have head lice or nits. I understand it is my responsibility to arrange collection of my child from school when notified and to let the school know the outcome of any treatment.

Child’s name: ........................................................................................................

Class: ...................................................................................................................

Parent’s Name: ................................................................................................

Parent’s Signature:................................. Date:.................................
Dear Parents / Caregivers,

As there has been student’s in your child’s class with head lice it is recommended that you check your child and other members of your immediate family each day during this outbreak.

It is best to inspect the hair under a bright light or sunlight using a magnifying lens.

Symptoms include excessive itching on the scalp, especially at the front, nape of the neck, behind the ears, under the fringe and at the base of plaits and ponytails.

Thank you for your co-operation. For further information please contact the school.

Jason Mittiga
Principal

__________________________________________________________________________________

Please return slip if you have treated your child/children for head lice or nits.

I [print name]……………………………………………….. have treated my child /
children [name/s]………………………………………………… for head lice.

_________________________________________   __________________________
Signed                                Date