Purpose:
- The purpose of the Head Lice Policy is to develop a consistent approach to the management of head lice infections.

Guidelines:
- Parents/guardians have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice.
- Schools also have a role in the management of head lice infections and in providing support for parents/guardians and students.
- A student with head lice must be excluded from school until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced. Therefore a student with head lice can be treated one evening and return to school the next day. The presence of eggs in the hair is not cause for exclusion.
- The discovery of head lice can be a stressful situation. Rosedale Primary School will exercise sensitivity towards this issue by maintaining student confidentiality.
- Rosedale Primary School will minimise anxiety by acknowledging that most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time.
- The Principal will organise head lice inspections as required.

Implementation:
- Distribute up-to-date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents/guardians and staff at the beginning of every year and more frequently if required.
- Nominate a head lice resource/support person (Principal) who parents/guardians can contact at the school.
- Parents/guardians will refrain from sending their children to school with untreated head lice. Parents/guardians need to be aware that one treatment is not sufficient to manage the problem. If a student re-attends school with live lice the school may again exclude the student until the live insects have been removed.
- Parents/guardians will be provided with comprehensive advice about the use of safe treatment practices which do not place students’ health at risk.
- Develop a pro forma for obtaining written parental permission for all inspections including those by local government personnel.
- The school will maintain confidentiality following head lice inspections, and will make appropriate contact with the parent/guardian.
Implementation…
- Provision of classroom activities to give students an understanding of the habits and life-cycle of head lice.
- School personnel to manage head lice at the school level.
- The school recommends regular (preferably once per week) inspection of their child/children’s hair by parents/guardians, for lice or lice eggs (using conditioner and a head lice comb is the most effective method).
- The school recommends regular inspection by parents/guardians of all household members followed by treatment if head lice are detected.
- Upon detection of head lice parents/guardians will notify the school office and advise when treatment has commenced.
- When the school has been notified of the presence of head lice, the class affected will receive individual notices asking all parents/guardians to check family members hair for presence of lice/eggs before children return to school.

Resources:
- Information pamphlets.
- Community Nurse.

Evaluation:
- This policy will be reviewed in a triennial basis or as required.
ROSEDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

HEAD LICE INSPECTIONS

Throughout the year, the school will be arranging head lice inspections for students. The management of head lice infection works best when all children are involved in our screening program.

The school is aware that this can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining student confidentiality.

Before any inspections are conducted, staff will explain to all students what is being done and why, and it will be emphasised to students that the presence of head lice in their hair does not mean that their hair is less clean or well kept than anyone else’s. It will also be pointed out that head lice can be itchy and annoying and if you know you have got them, you can do something about it.

The inspection of students will be conducted by local council appointed nurse.

The person conducting the inspections will check through each student’s hair to see if any lice or eggs are present. In cases where head lice are found, the person inspecting the student will inform the student’s class teacher and the principal. The school will make appropriate contact with the parents/guardians.

Please note that the law requires that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until appropriate treatment has commenced.

Consent Form – Head Lice Inspections

Parent/Guardian’s Full Name: .................................................................
Address: ..................................................................................................

Name of child/children attending school:
..................................................................................................................
Year Level: .................................

I hereby give my consent for the above-named child/ren to participate in the school’s head lice inspection program.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: .................................................................
Dated: .................................