

## **Headlice Policy**

Headlice is a community problem, rather than solely a school problem, but the school is committed to providing supports to families in dealing with it. It is a very contagious issue, which creates difficulties for children, families and staff alike. Therefore, the board of management is providing guidance to the in how to deal with it.

### **Aims:**

- To raise awareness in the school community
- To provide guidance to families in how to deal with them
- To encourage families to be proactive in dealing with this issue
- To create a school free from headlice, as far as is possible

### **Guidelines:**

- All children in the school, with long hair, must wear their hair up at all times.
- As soon as it has been identified that there has been an incident of headlice, parents/guardians of children in that class will be notified, along with advice on how to deal with it. The whole school community will also be informed.
- Parents/guardians are asked to inform the school if they have found that their child has a case of headlice
- Information on how to deal with headlice will be sent out in the Newsletter on a regular basis
- If headlice hasn't been cleared after a note has issued, the teacher will contact the parent/guardian directly.
- If they haven't cleared after that, the school will ask parent/guardian to keep the child at home, under health and safety issues until it has been cleared entirely. Due to the highly contagious nature of headlice, everyone must be vigilant and the school has a duty to deal with this issue like any other contagious issue.
- Once a term, there will be a Whole School Awareness Campaign. A letter (in a different colour) will issue to every family explaining that that weekend is the agreed weekend for every family to check hair. The letter then is to be signed and returned to school
- All cases will be dealt with discretely and confidentially
- If a child presents regularly or continually with headlice and it is not being dealt with, the school management may have to deal with it under the Child Protection Policy.