King’s Baptist Grammar School shows concern for the health of all school members and recognises that head lice are an ongoing problem in schools due, in the main, to the closeness of children being together. King’s makes every effort to minimise this problem through parental notification and current information. At all times, privacy laws are adhered to and individuals suspected of having head lice infestation are treated with sensitivity and discretion, always respecting the individual's human dignity.

Head lice are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. While they do not carry or transmit disease, they are the most common cause of head itch and scratching which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands; therefore, they need to be controlled.

**HEAD LICE - RATIONALE**

- Students found to have live head lice will be excluded from school immediately, or isolated until collected
- Students may return to school the day after treatment for head lice as long as there are no live lice upon re-inspection by designated school personnel
- Permission to inspect head lice on students must be given by parent consent
- All parents will be notified by note if a child within the year level has contracted head lice. A general note will also go in the school newsletter

**POLICY**
THE FACTS ABOUT HEAD LICE

- Head lice are small insects with six legs usually the size of a sesame seed.
- They live on or very close to the scalp and don’t wander far down the hair shafts for very long.
- They can only live on human beings; you can’t catch them from animals.
- Anybody can get head lice.
- Head lice infections are caught from close family and friends in the home and community.
- Spread of head lice requires direct head to head contact. They can’t swim, fly, hop or jump.

PREVENTING & TREATMENT OF HEAD LICE

- Avoid direct head to head contact with other students.
- Keep long hair tied up or plaited.
- The best way to stop infection is for families to learn how to check their own heads. This way they can find any lice before they have a chance to breed.
- Instruct children not to share hats, combs, brushes, etc.
- All bedding, towels, and clothing from the infected individual should be cleaned with soap and hot water and placed in a dryer for at least 20 minutes to help kill any remaining lice. Dry-clean all clothes that need to be dry-cleaned. Seal the infested individual’s stuffed toys in a plastic bag and leave them for 10 days to allow all lice to die of starvation. Dispose of or soak combs and hairbrushes in rubbing alcohol or the medicated shampoo used to kill lice. Throw out any hair accessories, such as hair elastics and ribbons. Thoroughly vacuum carpets and upholstered furniture.
- It is best to air the child’s mattress and pillow in the sun if at all possible (as this is a good way of destroying live lice).
- The best place for advice on different treatments is your local chemist.
- Pets cannot become infested with head and body lice, so no precaution is required.

Reviewed by Directors October, 2013.