Rationale
- Responsibilities for managing head lice are shared between parents/guardians, schools and Principals
- Parents/guardians have primary responsibility for detection and treatment of head lice
- Schools must develop an accurate and consistent policy to managing head lice that is approved by the School Council
- The written consent of parents/guardians prior to students being inspected for head lice must be obtained
- Infected students must be excluded until the day after treatment has commenced

Purpose
- To minimise outbreaks of head lice
- To ensure Bellbridge Primary School complies with DET policy and the requirements of the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001

Implementation
- A pro forma consent form that obtains parent/guardian consent to head lice inspections will be provided to parent/guardians for completion as part of enrolment
- The consent form will be updated when guardianship or custody arrangements change for the student or parents/guardians no longer wish to consent to inspections
- It will apply for the duration of the child’s enrolment at the school
- Head lice checks without physical contact do not require parental consent
- Parents/Guardians will be contacted regarding students identified with live head lice and will be sent home
- Parents/guardians through school Newsletters or other communications will be encouraged regularly to check for lice or eggs in the hair of all household members and notify the school if their child is affected
- They must not send their children to school with untreated head lice
- The school will alert parents/guardians of an infestation, particularly the parents of other students in the same class as the affected child/children but will use discretion about informing the school community about an infestation
- The school will exercise sensitivity towards students and families with head lice, maintain student confidentiality to avoid stigmatization and support and provide practical treatment advice to parents/guardians
Evaluation

To be reviewed as part of the cyclic plan.

Ratified at School Council – August 2015

School Council President: Ellisa Cole                  Principal: Debbie Clancy

When Reviewed / Developed – VRQA Minimum Standards: June 2014

Reference: