BASIC BELIEF
Parents/guardians have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice however the school will provide support.
At any given time there may be a number of students who have head lice at school. While there is no stigma attached to head lice we acknowledge that it can be a stressful time for all concerned. It is acknowledged that most schools will have some students with head lice at any given time.

IMPLEMENTATION
- The Mansfield Primary School management plan supports:
  - a commitment to 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 (available from website <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/phd/headlice>)
  - the nomination of a head lice resource/support person (parent or staff member) who parents can contact at the school at nominated times
  - the exclusion of children from school with untreated head lice i.e. students may be treated one evening and return to school the next day and the presence of eggs in the hair is not cause for exclusion. Parents 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/killed
  - clear protocols for any inspection program that the school wishes to implement, including a pro forma for obtaining written parental permission for all inspections including those by local government personnel
  - a pro forma letter of notification to parents/guardians of those students found to have head lice, which could incorporate a detachable slip at the bottom, asking parents to indicate the treatment used and when it commenced
  - a commitment to help reduce stigma and maintain confidentiality following head lice inspections, e.g. it is recommended that a letter be given to all students involved in inspections, not just those found to have head lice
  - provision of classroom activities to give students an understanding of the habits and life-cycle of head lice in order to minimise the incidence of stigmatisation of particular students and families
  - training of appropriate school personnel in detection and management of head lice at the school level
  - regular (weekly) inspections of their child/children’s hair for lice/lice eggs (using conditioner and a head lice comb is the most effective method)
  - regular inspection of all household members followed by treatment if head lice are detected
  - upon detection of head lice, notify the school and advise when treatment has commenced.

This policy was ratified by the Mansfield Primary School Council on 19/11/2012

Review Date: 2014