RATIONALE.
Head lice are a concern and frustration for parents, teachers and students. Parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice. Schools have a responsibility in the management of head lice infections and providing information and support for parents and students.

AIM:
To manage the incidence of head lice at Eastwood by minimising outbreaks of head lice, and to ensure parents have adequate information to effectively monitor and treat lice in a responsible manner.

IMPLEMENTATION:
1. The school will distribute up-to-date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice and information about Eastwood’s Head Lice policy will be provided to parents and staff at the beginning of each year and more frequently if required.

2. A head lice resource/support person will be nominated by the school.

3. Parents are not permitted to send their children to school with untreated head lice. Students may be treated one evening and return to school the next day. The presence of eggs in the hair is not cause for exclusion, providing that treatment has been commenced. (See point 9)

4. The exclusion of students from school, following the detection of live lice, rests with the Principal or nominee/s. Students with lice must also be excluded from OSHC and OSHC parents notified (see points 7 and 8).

5. When lice and/or eggs are found, parents will be notified and encouraged to pick up their child(ren). In the case of dead/live eggs the child will be returned to class if not collected. If live lice are found, the student will wait at the office until collected or till the end of the day.

6. To gain consent for head lice inspections, a written proforma will be distributed to each family at the beginning of each year, and upon enrolment of new students.

7. Where no authorisation to inspect has been given, parents will be contacted and asked to come to the school to inspect their children personally.

8. Nominated staff members/persons will be trained by the local council to perform head lice inspections as required.

9. Parents of students found to have head lice will be provided with a proforma letter of notification. The proforma will include a detachable slip asking parents to indicate that treatment has commenced.
10. The school will ensure that stigma related to head lice is minimised eg: all students will be given a letter informing parents of a head lice inspection.

11. Classroom activities will be provided to assist students in understanding the habits and life cycle of head lice, in order to minimise the incidence of stigmatisation.

12. Advice to parents will include the following recommendations:
   - Regular (preferably once per week) inspection of their children’s hair for lice or lice eggs (using conditioner and head lice comb an effective method)
   - Immediate notification to the school if live lice or eggs discovered
   - *Children do not attend school with untreated lice*
   - Regular inspection of all household members followed by treatment if head lice are detected.
   - All long hair is tied back. This does not prevent head lice but it does help stop the spread.
   - Sharing of hats is to be discouraged.

13. A supply of head lice treatment and combs will be maintained at the school to assist parents experiencing financial difficulty. These can be accessed through the office / assistant principal.

**EVALUATION.**
Next review due: August, 2013
This policy can also be reviewed as required.