RATIONALE:
- It is our goal to control infestation of head lice at school.

AIMS:
- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- To ensure that an effective process for treating head lice is well known and consistently followed.
- To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice treatments.

IMPLEMENTATION
- Teachers or staff members who believe that a student has head lice, are to report their concern to the schools head lice officer/s who will contact the student, parents or guardian.
- Once parents or guardians are informed that their child has head lice the student is to be excluded from attending school until they have been treated.
- The Principal will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice appears throughout the year in the school newsletter, particularly at times of heavy outbreaks.
- This can be a sensitive topic and therefore staff should take care in maintaining respect and privacy for students and families who are found to have head lice.
- Head lice treatment advice letter to parents will be updated regularly with current treatment options.

EVALUATION
- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three year review cycle.

This policy was ratified by School Council on June 23rd 2014

This policy is due for review in 2016
Dear Parents and Guardians,

Over the last few days there have been a few cases of head lice detected in your child’s year level. The following are signs of head lice.

- Persistent scratching, particularly behind the ears and the nape of the neck accompanied by a red rash.
- Tiny silver white eggs or nits at the base of the hair shaft.
- To locate head lice you may wish to use a magnifying glass and a fine-toothed comb under strong light to help identify lice.

Could you please check your child/ren’s hair carefully and if you detect either eggs or lice treat them effectively. Some treatment methods include the following:
  - Lotions and treatments that are available from chemists or supermarkets.
  - Using conditioner in dry hair with a head lice comb.

To remove the nits, use your fingernails or a fine-toothed comb and re-inspect in seven day’s time. The eggs on the hair shaft are best removed when conditioner is applied to the hair. Please remember that the bed linen needs a hot wash and combs, brushes, scrunches and hats should also be cleaned thoroughly. Shoulder length hair should be tied back at school. **The treatment needs to be repeated in seven days time to be effective.**

There is no stigma attached to having head lice, absolutely anyone can get them but they are a nuisance, therefore please treat them thoroughly and ensure all eggs are removed before returning your child/ren to school. It is recommended that you check your child’s hair weekly.

Let us know if you detect lice or eggs so we can alert parents of children in you son/daughter’s grade.

The following website can be helpful when dealing with head lice.  
www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au

Thank you for your co-operation.

Regards,

Kerry Griffin.
Consent form to conduct head lice inspections.

Permission to cover the duration of the students schooling at Clyde Primary School.

Throughout your child’s schooling, the school may arrange head lice inspections.

The school is aware that this can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining student confidentiality and avoiding stigmatisation.

The inspections of students will be conducted by a person who has been approved by the principal.

Before any inspections are conducted the person conducting the inspections will explain to all students what is being done and why. It will be emphasised to students that the presence of head lice in their hair does not mean that their hair is less clean or well kept than anyone else’s. It will also be pointed out that head lice can be itchy and annoying and if you know you have got them, you can do something about it.

The person conducting the inspections will check through each student’s hair to see if any lice or eggs are present.

Persons authorised by the school principal may also check your child’s hair for presence of head lice, when it is suspected that head lice may be present on any school day.

In cases where head lice are found, the person inspecting the student will inform the student’s teacher and the principal. The school will make appropriate contact with the student’s parents or guardians.

Please note that health regulations require that where a student has head lice, that student should not return to school until appropriate treatment has commenced.

Name of student attending the school __________

I hereby give my consent for the above named child to participate in the school's head lice inspection program for the duration of their schooling at this school.

Parent/guardian full name ____________________

Parent/guardian full name ____________________