VALUES: Understanding, respect, dignity, justice.

PREAMBLE: It is essential that if the problem of head lice is to be controlled, the whole school community needs to be informed of the facts of head lice. Hence it is considered important that the students, parents and staff receive the same information through a simple but complete education programme.

POLICY: St. Clare’s adopts a whole school approach to minimising the incidence and stigma of head lice through the education of staff, parents and students.

The prevention and treatment of head lice is essentially a ‘home’ responsibility with the support of the school.

GUIDELINES: If the presence of head lice is detected at home, the child/family would need to be treated before the student/s can return to school.

It would be expected that the family contact the school advising of detection and treatment.

If the presence of head lice in a student’s hair is suspected at school, the family will be contacted either by phone or letter advising of the same. The family will be given the option of collecting the student immediately, or accepting that a management strategy will need to be put in place to minimise the transfer of lice. The strategy will not exclude the student from the classroom/learning environment. The families of that class would need to be informed so as to be able to do a head check at home.

An information leaflet is available at the school office.