Rationale:
Maryborough Education Centre (MEC), acknowledges that whilst parents/carers have a primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, the school also has a role to support parents/carers with information and advice. Lice infestation is not a notifiable condition and head lice do not transmit any infectious disease.

Goal:
MEC aims to work collaboratively with parents/carers and the broader school community to implement practices and procedures to prevent and to minimise the impact of head lice outbreaks.

Guidelines:

- Provision of up-to-date information in the detection, treatment and control of head lice via school newsletter and website. The information issued will be comprehensive and include safe treatment practices from the Department of Health website. See Appendix A.

- The head lice resource person is the school First Aid Officer

- There are no formal head lice inspections but if a student is seen to have lice, that staff member will contact the First Aid Officer who will then contact the student’s parent/guardian. The student will remain at school on the day of detection and only returns to school after treatment for head lice has commenced. The principal, or his or her nominee, may exclude a student with live insects from school, following the recommendations of the School Exclusion Policy of the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009

- All students in a class where a student has live head lice, will receive a note to inform parents or guardians that there have been head lice in their child’s class

- Staff will ensure confidentiality is maintained at all times in dealing with head lice infestations

- Parents/carers are required to notify the school upon detection of head lice and advise when treatment has been commenced

- Students are encouraged to have their hair tied back in order to minimise the transfer of lice.

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on Wednesday 25th May 2016
Signed:

Paul Rumpff
School Council President

LINKS AND APPENDICES (including processes related to this policy)
Links which are connected to this policy are:

https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/publications/factsheets/Head%20lice%20Scratching%20for%20answers-%20Frequently%20asked%20questions

Appendix which is connected with this policy is

Appendix A: Department of Health Treating and Controlling Head Lice Fact Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions Fact Sheet ‘Scratching For Answers’