

HEAD LICE POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact 0357830300.

PURPOSE

Head Lice continues to cause concern and frustration for some parents, teachers and students. This school policy is intended to outline roles, responsibilities and expectations of the school community to assist treating and controlling head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner. It is acknowledged that, while parents/guardians have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, the College also has a role in the management of head lice infections and in providing support for parents/guardians and students.

POLICY

HOME MANAGEMENT PLAN:

It is the expectation of parents/guardians and families of students attending Wallan Secondary College that:

- Students will not attend school with untreated head lice. It should be noted that students may be treated one evening and return to school the next day and that the presence of eggs in the hair is not cause for exclusion. Parents/guardians need to be aware that one treatment is not sufficient to manage the problem. If a student re-attends school with live head lice, the school may again exclude the student until the live insects have been removed.
- Parents need to regularly inspect all household members and then treat them, if necessary,
- Parents/guardians will notify the school if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced (in accordance with Health Infectious Diseases Regulations 2001)

COLLEGE MANAGEMENT PLAN:

To support parents/guardians and the broader school community to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management the school will undertake to:

- Distribute up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of the school year or more frequently if required
- Include information and updates in school communications if head lice incidents are reported
- Provide practical advice and maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures
- Access community education resources and support, such as the school nurses, community health centres and local government
- Abide by the recommendations of School Exclusion Policy of the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001 in that the responsibility to exclude a child from the school rests with the principal or person in charge and, only exclude children from school with live insects
- Accept the advice of parents that appropriate treatment has commenced
- Educate children to learn about head lice to help remove any stigma or 'bullying' associated with the issue
- Be aware of real difficulties some parents may encounter and seek extra support if required,
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community especially around issues of Head Lice
- Continue to seek opportunities to increase our collective understanding of and response to managing head lice

- Review the head lice policy as required and seek endorsement from the School Council/Community.

There is no requirement for any school to undertake 'head lice inspection' programs; therefore Wallan Secondary College leaves this responsibility to the parent/guardian.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	19.04.2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	19.04.2027