



# HEAD LICE POLICY

## **RATIONALE:**

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.

## **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 newsletters if large numbers of head lice incidents are reported,
- Inform immediately the Home Group affected and communicate via the most efficient means. ,
- 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 primary 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.

**EVALUATION:**

□ Feedback to Council

Date of next review: March 2020

This policy was ratified by the Wallan Secondary College Council on...

10<sup>th</sup> May 2016

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Wallan Secondary College is committed to the protection and wellbeing of all students whilst participating in school activities both during and outside school hours. Staff have responsibility for building and maintaining a child safe environment. This responsibility extends to the identification and timely response to all concerns with regard the safety of any student of our College.

Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers,

It has come to my attention that some students in the school may have head lice and I seek your cooperation in checking your child's hair this week (insert date \_\_/\_\_/\_\_ to \_\_/\_\_/\_\_).

Head lice do not transmit infectious diseases - they are transmitted by having head to head contact with someone who has head lice. You may be reassured to know that head lice are commonly found in places other than at (insert name of school). Head lice are common in school- aged children and are the most adaptable of creatures. They have survived living solely on humans for 10,000 years!!!!

What can you do?

I seek your cooperation in checking your child's hair and in those instances where head lice or eggs are found, treating your child's hair.

Please see the attached pamphlet *Treating and Controlling Head Lice*, from the Department of Human Services. This pamphlet has informative guidelines regarding detecting and treating head lice and eggs.

How do I treat my child for head lice?

The attached pamphlet (as noted above) has informative guidelines regarding detecting and treating head lice and eggs. The school also has additional information available regarding treatment and controlling head lice. Please don't hesitate to contact (insert relevant person) on, (insert phone number) to obtain this information.

If head lice or eggs are found on your child's hair you need to inform:

- the school and advise when the treatment has started, via the attached *Action Taken Form*.
- parents or carers of your child's friends so they too have the opportunity to detect and treat their children if necessary.

When can my child return to school?

Health regulations requires that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until the day after appropriate treatment has started. Please note, this refers only to those children who have live head lice and does not refer to head lice eggs.

(insert name of school) is aware that head lice can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining your confidentiality.

Kind regards

Signature of Principal (or relevant other)

Date.....

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

Head lice or eggs are suspected to have been detected on your child and it is very important for you to treat your child as soon as possible, using safe treatment practices. Please read the pamphlet, *Treating and Controlling Head Lice*, from the Department of Human Services at <http://docs.health.vic.gov.au/docs/doc/Treating-and-controlling-headlice>. This pamphlet has informative guidelines regarding detecting and treating head lice and eggs.

It is very important for you to notify **Wallan Secondary College** and to advise when appropriate treatment has commenced.

It is important to note, that health regulations require that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until the day after appropriate treatment has started. Please note that this refers only to those children who have live head lice and does not refer to head lice eggs.

Please complete the below form and provide this to **the College Principal**, on the return of your child to school.



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**Action Taken - Student Head Lice  
Parent/Guardian/Carer Response Form**

To: The College Principal

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Student's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Year Level: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that my child should not attend school with untreated head lice.

I used the following recommended treatment for head lice or eggs for my child

\_\_\_\_\_.

Treatment commenced on \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent/carer/guardian: ..... Date.....

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