



Kookaburra Avenue,
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WYNDHAM PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL NO. 5540 HEAD LICE POLICY

Purpose:

To create and maintain a well informed school community, confident in their ability to manage head lice (pediculosis). Head Lice can cause head itching and scratching, which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands, hence the need for control.

Goals:

To outline the roles and responsibilities of home and school in the detection, treatment and control of head lice.
To document effective treatment and management strategies which are vital, as head lice cannot be eradicated.
To ensure that the guidelines represent a systematic, whole community approach, as head lice infections are as much a social issue as they are educational and health issues.

Roles and Responsibilities

Parent and Carer Responsibilities include:

Ensuring that their child does not attend school with untreated head lice.

Using safe treatment practices which do not place their child's health at risk.

It is reasonable to expect that parents and carers will:

Regularly (preferably once a week) inspect their child's hair, using conditioner and a head lice comb to look for lice or lice eggs.

Regularly check all household members and treat them as necessary.

Notify our school if their child is affected and advise us when treatment has started.

Notify parents or carers of their child's friends so they have the opportunity to treat their own child/ren as necessary.

Keep their child at home until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced (Health [Infectious Disease] Regulations 2001).

Complete the treatment note and return it to school.

School Staff:

The school will be responsible for:

The distribution of policies and information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of the year and more frequently as required.

Nominate an Educational Support Staff member to be key contact to distribute a Head Lice Tool Kit.

Practical advice and an understanding attitude so as to support and avoid stigmatising families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures.

Encouraging parents to continue to regularly check their child for head lice. Older children can be taught to use conditioner and a head lice comb to check their own hair.

Our school will adopt an integrated and systematic approach to head lice by:

Accessing community educational resources and support, such as school nursing.

Being aware that the responsibility to exclude a child from

school rests with our Principal or their nominee.

Being aware that the exclusion of children from school with head lice refers only to those children with live insects and does not refer to head lice eggs.

Educating all staff about head lice.

Encouraging the development and monitoring of the school's policy on head lice, in conjunction with School Council.

Encouraging children to learn about head lice to help remove stigmatisation or teasing associated with head lice.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the following practices be put into place to assist in the effective detection, monitoring and treatment of head lice.

Completion of school policy and presentation to School Council for ratification.

Distribution to all families, of this school policy and relevant head lice information.

Hair checks maybe conducted throughout the school year.

Head lice screening will generally be conducted as late as possible in the school day so that those children affected with live head lice can be excluded with minimal stigma.

If a child is detected with live head lice there will be both an individual and classroom action to follow.

Actions for an Individual Student:

a: The carer will be contacted by the ES Staff or AP at an appropriate time and asked if possible to collect the student from school to treat live head lice.

b: A 'Wyndham Park PS with Action Taken' notice and head lice PDF information sheet will be sent home with the student.

Actions for Classroom:

'They're Back...' notice and head lice PDF information sheet will be sent home to students in

affected class to enable parents/guardian to conduct a head lice check at home.

Children affected with live lice and live eggs will require treatment at home as indicated on the note. The treatment note must be completed by parent/carer advising that treatment has commenced and then returned with the child upon his/her return to school.

Standard agreement for parents to sign at the commencement of their child's schooling at Wyndham Park Primary School to allow our trained staff when deemed necessary by our Principal to check their child's hair for head lice. This agreement will outline parental responsibilities and expectations in regard to head lice management. This consent will be for the duration of the child's schooling at Wyndham Park Primary School, unless we are otherwise notified in writing by the child's parent/carer.

Encouraging all students with hair below collar length to have it tied back.

Additional Information can be found at
<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/>



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Wyndham Park Primary School

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 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.

It is very important for you to notify Wyndham Park Primary School 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 Principal or Principal's nominated representative on the return of your child to school.

CONFIDENTIAL

Action Taken – Student Head Lice Parent/Guardian/Carer Response Form

To: School Principal,

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 (insert name of treatment)

Treatment commenced on (insert date) ____ / ____ / ____

Signature of parent/carer/guardian: _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____



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Wyndham Park Primary School

They're Back...

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.

Head lice 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 Wyndham Park PS. 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. Additional Information can be found at <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/>

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.

Wyndham Park PS is aware that head lice can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining your confidentiality.

Kind regards
Troy Johns
Acting Principal
Wyndham Park Primary School



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WYNDHAM PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL NO. 5540 HEAD LICE POLICY

Consent Form To Conduct Head Lice Inspections
Permission to cover the duration of the student's schooling at:

Wyndham Park Primary School

Throughout your child's schooling, the school will be arranging head lice inspections of students.

The management of head lice infection works best when all children are involved in our screening program.

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 trained person approved by the principal and school council.

Before any inspections are conducted the person conducting the inspections will explain to all students what is being done and why and 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.

Person's authorised by the school principal may also visually check your child's hair for the presence of head lice, when it is suspected that head lice may be present. They do not physically touch the child's head during a visual check.

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

Please note that health regulations requires that where a child has head lice, that child should not return to school until appropriate treatment has commenced. The school may request the completion of an 'action taken form', which requires parents/guardians/carers to nominate if and when the treatment has started.

Parent/carer/guardian's full name: _____

Parent/carer/guardian's full name: _____

Address: _____ Post code: _____

Name of child 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.

Signature of parent/carer/guardian: _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

Signature of parent/carer/guardian: _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

Please inform the school if guardianship/custody changes for your child, as this form will need to be re-signed to reflect these changes. Please also inform the school in writing if you no longer wish to provide consent for the school to undertake head lice inspections for your child.



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WYNDHAM PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL NO. 5540 HEAD LICE POLICY

Head Lice Management Agreement Between Schools and Parents/Guardians/Carers Wyndham Park Primary School

Head lice continues to cause concern and frustration for some parents/guardians/carers, teachers and children. Head Lice are transmitted by having head to head contact with someone who has head lice. Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, the control and management of head lice infections is a shared responsibility amongst a number of agencies, including the Department of Education and Training; Department of Human Services; schools and parents. The Department of Education and Training is responsible for providing advice and support to schools regarding head lice management.

This agreement outlines the:

Responsibilities of both the school and the parent/guardian/carer;

Importance of an all inclusive health approach, to ensure an appropriate and efficient solution to the problem of head lice.

Responsibilities

Parent/Guardian/Carer - responsibilities include:

Regularly (preferably once a week) inspecting their child's hair to look for lice or lice eggs and regularly inspecting all household members and then treating them if necessary;

Ensuring their child does not attend school with untreated head lice;

Using safe treatment practices which do not place their child's health at risk (see the attached Treating and Controlling Head Lice pamphlet).

Notifying the school if their child is affected and advising the school when the treatment has started via an Action Taken form;

Notifying parents or carers of your child's friends so they too have the opportunity to detect and treat their children if necessary.

I have read and agree to the above responsibilities:

Signature of parent/carer/guardian: _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

Signature of parent/carer/guardian: _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

School - responsibilities include:

Distributing policies and information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents/guardians/carers and staff and having accessible clear protocols for the inspection program that the school implements;

Developing a school policy on head lice which reinforces an accurate, consistent approach to the management of head lice infections, which is approved by the school council;

Obtaining written parental consent to conduct head lice inspections, upon the enrolment of a student to cover the duration of their schooling at a particular school and to nominate a trained person/s to conduct the head lice inspections, who is approved by the Principal and school council;

Encouraging those person's authorised by the school principal, e.g. teacher, to visually check a student's hair, i.e. with no physical contact with the child, if the presence of head lice is suspected;

Encouraging parents/guardians/carers to continue to regularly (preferably once per week) check their child for head lice and providing a sympathetic attitude and practical advice to those parents experiencing difficulty with the control measures;

Encouraging students to learn about head lice so as to help remove any stigma or 'bullying' associated with the issue;

Being aware that the responsibility to exclude a child from a school rests with the principal or person in charge of the school and being aware that exclusion only refers to those children who have live head lice and does not refer to head lice eggs; and being aware of the recommendation that students should be excluded from school at the conclusion of the school day where the student should be provided with a note to take home to inform the parent that their child may have head lice.

Being aware that there is no requirement in the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001 for a child treated for head lice to obtain a clearance certificate to be issued either by a general practitioner or a municipal council, on return to school.

Where appropriate, and at the principal's discretion, providing an alert notice to the school community, when head lice has been detected in the school;

Encouraging parents/guardians/carers to identify treatment used and the commencement date, via an Action Taken form.

Wyndham Park Primary School is committed to managing head lice in a sensitive and confidential manner. We are committed to the above responsibilities.

Signature of principal: _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____