



# Oakleigh Grammar

Policy Document Name	Head Lice Guidelines
Date Ratified by Board of Management	May 2022
Date for Review	July 2025

## 1. Preamble

Head lice (Pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. Anyone can catch head lice. Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They spread from person to person by head to head contact, and may also be spread by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and hats. While they do not carry or transmit disease, they are a cause of head itch and scratching, which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands; therefore, they need to be controlled.

## 2. Purpose

- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- To ensure effective processes for treating head lice are well known and consistently followed.
- To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice and their treatment.
- To support parents/guardians and the broader school community to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management

## 3. Protocols

1. While it is parents who have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, the School also has a role in managing head lice infections and providing support for parents and students.
2. If a case of head lice is identified, parents and staff of all students in the infected child's class will be notified in writing and advised to check the student's and other family members' hair at home.
3. If head lice or nits are found at home, it is expected that the child will be treated prior to returning to school and the school will be informed as early as possible.
4. The Principal will also identify specific staff members – usually the School Nurse/First Aid Officer – who with consent of the parents carry out physical head lice inspections for the detection of head lice when deemed necessary as per the school policy and Department of Health information.
5. At the start of each year, the School will ask parents to provide consent for a head lice inspection if necessary. However, all students may be visually checked without parental consent.

6. In cases where head lice are found, the person checking will confidentially notify the class teacher and Head of School.
7. Classroom teachers and staff associated with a student or group of students who have head lice are encouraged to have their hair inspected in a confidential appointment at school or externally.
8. Parents will be notified by the School Nurse/First Aid Officer of any children inspected (see Appendix 1), as well as current advice on the management of head lice. By providing all children with a letter it can help to reduce the stigma and maintain confidentiality.
9. Consistent with *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019, School Exclusion Table* the Principal and or delegate will ensure that the parents of any child found to have live lice are informed that their child may be excluded from attending school until appropriate treatment has commenced.
10. The School via the Nurse/First Aid Officer will provide parents with information on the detection, treatment and management of head lice throughout the year in the School Newsletter, particularly at times of heavy infestations.

19 May 2022



## Head Lice Alert Notice

Dear Parents/Guardians

We would like to let you know that head lice have been detected in your child's classroom.

It is extremely important for you to check your child's head for head lice TODAY. Keep checking **every 2 days** until there are **no head lice found for 10 consecutive days**.

If you do find head lice, commence effective treatment immediately and be sure to complete the full process of treatment. This will help prevent head lice from spreading.

If for any reason, you are having difficulties treating the head lice on your child effectively, please call our school First Aid Officer on 9569 6128 or via email on [firstaid@oakleighgrammar.vic.edu.au](mailto:firstaid@oakleighgrammar.vic.edu.au).

Yours Sincerely