Wycheproof P12 College Head Lice Policy

Help for non-English speakers.

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact Wycheproof P12 College. Phone: (03) 54937409 Email: wycheproof.p12@education.vic.gov.au

PURPOSE

To ensure the school community understands our school's approach to head lice detection and control.

SCOPE

This policy gives direction for the management of head lice infestation within the Wycheproof P-12 College community.

POLICY

Wycheproof P-12 College staff will seek an annual consent from parents for a head lice check of students from Prep to Year 8.

Head lice checks are performed once a term but may be undertaken more often if live head lice are found.

Parents receive a written report of the results of the head lice check.

If head lice are found during a regular check, parents will be informed immediately, and staff will seek advice from parents. Parents may permit school staff to use the 'conditioner and comb' treatment method and this will be regarded as 'commencing treatment' and the student may remain at school.

Students with live head lice may be excluded from school until after treatment has commenced, as set out in the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019.

The Principal has the overall responsibility to exclude a student from school. The presence of eggs in the hair is not a cause for exclusion (only the presence of live head lice).

There is no requirement for a general practitioner or local council to issue a clearance certificate for the child to return to school.

The two preferred treatment options available for initially treating head lice are the 'conditioner and comb' method, and the use of an insecticide. If using an insecticide product check that it has an Australian Registered (AUST R) or Australian Listed (AUST L) number on the outer packaging. These numbers show that the product is accepted by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for supply in Australia. Only use products that are commercially available and approved for use on children.

Staffing

The Principal will ensure that Wycheproof P-12 College has sufficient staff with the appropriate level of training to undertake head lice inspections.

Parent/Carer detection and treatment responsibilities

Parents and carers have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice.

Responsibilities include:
not sending their children to school with untreated head lice
using safe treatment practices which do not place their child's health at risk
regularly checking for lice or eggs in the hair of their child and other household members
notifying the school if their child is affected and when treatment commenced.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Information via school newsletter
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Department policies and guidelines:

- Head Lice: Policy | VIC.GOV.AU | Policy and Advisory Library
- Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 | legislation.vic.gov.au

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	March 2026
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	March 2030