



Waltham Pre-School

Head Lice

Policy Statement

Head lice continue to cause concern and frustration for some parents, teachers, and children. This school policy is intended to outline roles, responsibilities, and expectations of the pre-school community to assist with treating and controlling head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner.

Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice our school community will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

It is the expectation of parents/carers and families attending this Pre-School that:

- Children's hair will be checked for head lice on a regular basis, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method
- That your child does not attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with Health Infectious Diseases Regulations 2001)
- Regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary
- Parents/carers 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 Disease Regulations 2001)
- Use only safe and recommended practices to treat head lice
- Maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community especially around issues of head lice

To support parents/carers and broader school community to achieve consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management the Pre-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 year or more frequently if required
- Include information and updates in Pre-School newsletters
- Provide practical advice and maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures
- Access community educational resources and support, such as primary school nurses, community health centres and local government
- Accept the advice of parents that appropriate treatment has commenced.
- Request that parents of children with live insects check their child immediately and access prompt treatment before they return to Pre-School.
- Encourage children to learn about head lice to help remove any stigma associated with the issue
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the Pre-School and broader community especially around issues of Head Lice.
- Be aware of real difficulties some parents may encounter and seek extra support if required
- Review the head lice policy annually

