Woodbridge School
Head Lice Policy

This policy has been developed by the Head Lice Working Party and is a joint statewide policy agreed between The Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Although the head louse (Pediculosis capitis) can cause significant irritation, it has not been known to transmit disease. Head lice have been common in the community throughout history and will spread anywhere that a number of people work, play or live together. School communities, by their nature, are therefore vulnerable to infestations.

Detection

Parents have prime responsibility to check their children for head lice on a regular basis.

Treatment

Parents have responsibility for the purchase and application of treatment.

Detailed information about appropriate treatment of lice and nits (eggs) is available at the school or through the Family, Child and Youth Health Service. The information will include the current recommended treatment/s.

Return to school

Students may return to school following one application of a recommended product.
Roles

**Parents**

Parents have prime responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice. The removal of eggs in the hair is desirable. Parents have a responsibility to seek education and support when required. (The Family and Child Health Nurse can provide education and individual support when required.)

Parents **must** notify the school when head lice (or nits) have been detected so the Principal can request that other parents check their children.

**Principals/Teachers**

When notified that a child has head lice (or nits), the Principal is responsible for sending relevant information to the parent of that child and as well to the parents of the children who are likely to be contacts so they can be checked by their parents.

If a teacher by chance sees head lice (or nits) in a child’s hair, the parents should be notified as soon as possible and appropriate support material will be provided to them. If a teacher suspects a child may have head lice, the Principal should be informed and the parent should be requested to check the child as soon as possible and treat any head lice present.

**Family and Child Health Nurses**

Family and Child Health Nurses do not have responsibility for mass screening for head lice. They are available to parents and teachers as advisors on detection and treatment. Family and Child Health Nurses may be used as resource persons in difficult cases and in cases of re-infestation in situations where students are absent from school because of head lice for extended periods.