



Manor Lakes College

Mission:

Manor Lakes College will create a vibrant and harmonious community of responsible learners who have a confident belief in their ability to learn, grow and succeed.

Policy : Head Lice

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We Act Safely We Aim High We Show Respect We Value Our Community

Rationale

Head lice have been around for many thousands of years. Anyone can get head lice and given the chance head lice move from head to head without discrimination. This happens frequently in families, schools and childcare centres. Whilst parents/carers have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice our school community will work in a cooperative and collaborative matter to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

Guidelines

It is the expectation of College Staff to

- Provide practical advice, 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.
- Abide by the recommendations of the Health Regulations 2001 in that the responsibility to exclude a child from the school rests with the principal or person in charge.
- Request that all families attending this school sign an 'agreement' to accept the conditions of the school's head lice policy.
- Implement regular proactive Head Lice Inspection Programs
- Notify parents when live head lice have been detected in their child's head.
- Provide generic permission forms to families when they enrol at the school.

It is the expectation of parents/carers/families attending this school that:

- Children's hair will be checked for head lice on a weekly basis, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method.
- 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.
- They notify the school if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced (in accordance with Health Regulations 2001)
- Children with long hair will attend school with hair tied back
- You use only safe and recommended practices to treat head lice.
- They maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatizing/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

- Sign an agreement accepting the terms of the Manor Lakes College Head Lice Policy.

Implementation

School Head Lice Program

- Manor Lakes P-12 College will implement the Head Lice Inspection Program as a proactive response to the identification of live head lice and as a preventative measure to assist in the control of the spread of Head Lice.
- Staff will only do a physical inspection of the heads of children whose parents have given prior consent.
- Identification of students who have live head lice may happen via parental notification, or a visual check by any staff member (no consent required) or via an examination of a student's head for the presence of head lice (parental consent required)
- Authorised staff will conduct head checks of students who have signed permission, when the school identifies a student with live lice. That child's grade will be checked along with other siblings at the school if time permits.
- Every effort will be made to be respectful and private during these head checks.
- When live head lice are detected on a student's head, the parents will be notified and the student sent home as soon as it is practical.
- Parents are to bring children to the office after they have been treated. Children will be checked for live lice before they return to the classroom (parental consent required.)
- We will respect the wishes of families who elect not to participate in the head checks.
- The role of first aid staff is to coordinate the head lice inspection program, ring parents, distribute notes and check students upon return to school, after treatment.

Staff Guidelines

- If live lice are found in your class the class teacher needs to send that child to the sick bay staff who will notify parents to come and collect their child.
- If parents can't collect the child, they will need to stay at school till the end of the day. They will stay in their classroom. The teacher will need to provide work for them to do.
- The first aid staff will be checking students after they return from head lice treatment. They will send the student back to the classroom with a clearance note to give to teachers
- Grade inspections. If lice are found on a student in your grade, every effort will be made to check the grade on that day at a time that best fits all involved. The first aid staff will enlist the help of another ES staff in that team to assist with checking. Classes will sit quietly outside the white wall of Argyle and wait for their turn to be checked by the first aider and ES staff in the sickbay. The teacher is required to supervise the grade lined up waiting outside. Taking books to read could be advisable. Need to keep noise to a minimum and ensure that the office entrance is not blocked with lots of students.
- Three choices of notes which first aiders may hand out to students
 - Home Head Lice Checks Required – for when a case has been found in a grade
 - Live Head Lice Found – a phone call is also done by first aid staff
 - Lice Eggs (nits) Found – good to sticky tape a sample onto the note to go homeWhen lice have been noticed but it has not been possible for the grade inspection to occur, teachers will send home the note -Home Head Lice Checks Required to students

Treatment of head lice

- It is the responsibility of the parents/carers to treat head lice
- Treatment brochures will be on display at the front office and handed out to students who have head lice.
- Concentrate on the head - there is no evidence to suggest that you need to clean the house or classroom.
- No treatment kills all of the eggs so treatment must involve two applications seven days apart. If you are using lotions, apply the product to dry hair.
- There is no need to treat the whole family, unless they also have head lice.
- Only the pillowcase requires specific laundering; either wash it in hot water (at least 60 degrees centigrade) or dry it using a clothes dryer on the hot or warm setting.
- There is no product available that prevents head lice. Using the conditioner and comb method once a week will help you detect any head lice early and minimise the problem. Tying back long hair can help prevent the spread of head lice.
- Combs with long, rounded stainless steel teeth positioned very close together have been shown to be the most effective, however, any head lice comb can be use.

Support for the community**Education**

- The school will use the newsletter to distribute up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents, students and staff at the beginning of the year and throughout the year.
- Head lice education will be included in the health curriculum at the school.
- Allied Health Support will be made available to families who wish to access this.
- Head lice information will be available to parents via the front office information board and via the student wellbeing team as a point of contact if parents wish.
- All education opportunities will emphasize a sympathetic and non-judgemental attitude towards societies head lice problem.

Evaluation

- This policy will be evaluated by the First Aid Co-ordinator in conjunction with the Wellbeing team and the school council.
- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle, or as required due to changes in relevant Acts, Laws or should situations arise that require earlier consideration.