HEAD LICE POLICY
Reviewed March, 2010
Walpole Primary School developed the following head lice policy in 2006 in consultation with parents, teachers, the Community (School) Nurse and the Health Department of Western Australia – this review and renewal of previous policy has been confirmed by The School Council.

Identification of children with pediculosis (head lice) is essential to prevent person-to-person spread of head lice.

- The School Principal will nominate school staff members who may examine a student’s hair where there is reason to believe the child may have head lice.
- To ensure competency, the nominated staff members will receive education and training in identifying head lice infestation from the Community (School) Nurse or other appropriate person.
- Students found to have head lice may be excluded from school until treatment has begun and all live head lice have been removed. A few remaining eggs are not a reason for exclusion. (This means most students can return to school the morning after treatment had commenced.)
- Students must be treated with sensitivity if head lice are found. They can be given tasks which do not involve close group work but do not necessarily need to be excluded from class activities for the remainder of the school day. The principal, however, does have authority to exercise discretion and withdraw a student from school programmes. Students are to be excluded at the end of the school day, and not earlier.
- If head lice are present then the parents/carers of all students in the class will be informed and requested to examine and treat their children if required. Parents will be advised that head lice elimination requires at least 10 days of follow-up treatment with daily removal of head lice. The principal may require that a student with head lice not attend school nor participate in an educational programme until the parents/carers confirm that a recommended treatment is being undertaken and all head lice have been removed.
- Parents/carers will be notified the same day of their child’s head lice infestation and exclusion by letter or phone as appropriate.
- All parents/carers will be offered a copy of the Health Department’s Head Lice Manual, to ensure they receive accurate treatment information.
- Families who are experiencing recurrent head lice infestations will be referred to the Community (School) Nurse for further assistance and support.
- All students will receive a short head lice education session once each year, undertaken by either the teacher or School Nurse.
- An annual session for head lice education will be offered to all parents through The Parents and Citizens’ Association, preferably in First Term.

For further information see: www.health.wa.gov.au/headlice