



# HEAD LICE

## POLICY

### **Rationale:**

While parents/guardians have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, schools also have a role in the management of head lice infestations and in providing support for parents/guardians and students. Iramoo Primary School takes this shared responsibility very seriously and implements a comprehensive management plan for the detection and treatment of head lice in our school community.

### **Aims:**

- To provide support to members of the Iramoo school community on the management and detection of head lice through education and distribution of information on head lice detection and education.
- To assist in the detection and control of head lice at school.

### **Implementation:**

- Distribution of up-to-date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to the Iramoo school community at the beginning of each school year and more frequently if required (available from website [www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice)).
- Information on head lice detection and management is to be included in Prep Information Booklets.
- A school appointed First Aid officer is the head lice resource/support person who parents/guardians can contact at the school as required.
- It is **essential** that parents/guardians refrain from sending their child/ren to school with untreated live head lice. Parents who detect infestation on their child/ren **must** notify the school so that information can be sent home to fellow classmates and parents can check their hair for live lice and treat as necessary.
- Any child found to have live lice whilst at school is excludable in accordance with the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2009 and required to obtain a head lice 'clearance certificate' from the office between 8:30 and 8:50 am before being able to return to school/class.
- Parents/guardians will be provided with comprehensive advice about the use of effective and safe treatment methods to detect and treat head lice.
- Written parental permission for all head lice inspections is obtained from parents at the time of enrolment at Iramoo Primary School.
- In the case that live lice are detected, parents will be contacted and informed that the child has live lice and the recommendation made that the child should be taken home and treated for head lice. If a parent is unable to pick up their child, he/she will be sent back to class and dismissed at the end of the school day. The child can return to school after confirmation of treatment for live lice has been obtained.
- Parents/guardians will be notified in writing of the results of any inspection of their child/ren for head lice that occurs during a whole class hair check.
- If within a short period of time, after a class has been checked for head lice, a parent notifies the school of another case, a red note will be sent home to inform parents that there have been further live lice detected in the class.
- Appropriate school personnel will be trained in the detection and management of head lice at the school level.

- Teachers are to ensure that children follow the student dress code. Students with hair beyond shoulder length are required to tie their hair back in accordance with the Iramoo Primary School Student Dress Code policy.

**Evaluation:**

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.