



IRAMOO PRIMARY SCHOOL No 5152

# HEAD LICE

POLICY



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Iramoo Primary School on (03) 9741 2803 or [iramoo.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:iramoo.ps@education.vic.gov.au).

## Purpose

While individual, families and public health experts have primary responsibility for the control of head lice, schools can assist with controlling and preventing head lice. 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.

## Scope

This policy applies to all members of the school community including students, parents, carers and staff.

## Policy

### School Statement

This policy sets out the requirements Iramoo Primary School will take to prevent and control the transmission of head lice.

### Head lice

Pediculosis or 'head lice' are small, wingless insects that live, breed and feed on human scalp. They cannot transmit any infectious diseases. Direct contact is required for transmission from person to person, where head lice crawl from head-to-head.

### Management/Control

- Up-to-date information on the management, detection, treatment and control of head lice to the Iramoo school community will be distributed at the beginning of each school year and more frequently if required (available from website [Head lice \(health.vic.gov.au\)](http://health.vic.gov.au))
- Information on head lice detection and management will be included in the Prep Information Booklets.
- A school appointed First Aid officer is the head lice resource/support person who parents/carers can contact at the school as required.
- Any child found to have live lice whilst at school is excludable in accordance with the **Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008** and **Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019** and required to obtain a head lice 'clearance certificate' from the school office between 8:30 and 8:50 am before being able to return to school/class.
- Parents/carers will be provided with comprehensive advice about the use of effective and safe treatment methods to detect and treat head lice.
- In the case that live lice are detected, parents/carers will be contacted and informed that the child has live lice and the child will need to be taken home and treated for head lice. The child can return to school after confirmation of treatment for live lice has been obtained.

- Parents/carers have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice and responsibilities include:
  - not sending their children to school with untreated head lice
  - using safe treatment practices which do not place their child's health at risk
  - regularly checking for lice or eggs in the hair of their child and other household members
  - notifying the school if their child is affected and when treatment commenced so that information can be sent home to fellow classmates and families can check their hair for live lice and treat as necessary.

### Visual head lice check in school

- Written parental permission for all head lice inspections is obtained from parents/carers at the time of enrolment at Iramoo Primary School.
- Appropriate school personnel authorised by the principal are trained in the detection and management of head lice at the school level.
- Parents/carers will be notified in writing and via Compass 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 and a parent/carer notifies the school of another case, a notification will be made on Compass informing parents/carers that there have been further live lice detected/reported in the class.

### Healthy physical environment

Head lice do not live or breed on furniture, carpets, clothes or soft toys and cannot spread through sharing items of clothing, for example hats.

However it is best practice for our school to:

- ensure that parents/carers tie their child's hair back if it is long/beyond shoulder length as in accordance with the Iramoo Primary School Student Dress Code policy
- implement learning activities that minimise head-to-head contact during head lice outbreaks.

### Communication

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- available publicly on our school's website
- included in transition and enrolment packs
- included as annual reference in school newsletter
- made available in hard copy from school administration upon request.

### Further Information and Resources

[Head Lice: Policy | education.vic.gov.au](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/headlice)

[Infectious Diseases](#)

[Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019](#)

### Policy REVIEW and Approval

Policy last reviewed	August, 2023
Approved and ratified by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	August, 2026