



# Head Lice

## Policy

### **RATIONALE:**

Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects, which live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. While they do not carry or transmit disease, they are the most common cause of itchy scalp and may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands.

### **AIM:**

To create and maintain a well informed community, confident in their ability to detect, manage and treat head lice.

### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

**It is expected that parents/carers and families attending this school that they will:**

- Not allow their child to attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009)
- Regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary
- Tie their child's hair back if it is longer than shoulder length
- Maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising or blaming families who are finding it hard to control head lice
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community around issues of head lice

**To support parents/carers and the broader school community to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management the school will:**

- When a case of head lice is confirmed in a classroom, an alert notice will be sent home informing families (see appendix 1)
- Distribute up to date and accurate information on the finding, treating and controlling of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of the year or more frequently if required
- Include information and updates in school newsletters when necessary
- Provide practical advice and maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising or blaming families who are finding it hard to control head lice
- Access community educational resources and support, such as primary school nurses, community health centres and local government
- The responsibility to exclude a child from the school rests with the principal or person in charge
- Only exclude children from school with live insects
- Laurimar Primary School may choose to undertake proactive inspections from time to time

There is no requirement for any school to undertake head-lice inspection programs however those that do need to consider the following as additions to a school head lice policy:

- Ensure that any person employed by the school, or volunteering, to undertake head lice inspections will adhere to the school policy, Department of Health information and maintain confidentiality
- Only inspect the heads of children whose parents have given consent
- Develop a generic/blanket consent form, which parents sign at commencement of enrolment
- Include teachers and school staff in inspection

### **EVALUATION:**

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