



HEADLICE POLICY

To support family and community headlice management, this school policy outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Floreat Park Primary School community members in efforts to control headlice. This school policy draws on information obtained from the Department of Education (Head Lice – Best Practice Guidelines) and the Department of Health (Head Lice Fact Sheet).

Evidence shows that we cannot eradicate headlice but we can reduce the number of cases if all school community members work together in a coordinated manner. In this school community there is a commitment to do this in the following ways:

- On receiving notification that there is a case of head lice in your child's class a synchronised headlice check needs to be done at home by carers, preferably that evening. All families are asked to participate. If head lice are discovered appropriate treatment needs to follow and this must include all family members and may involve washing bed linen. As the cycle can last up to 10 days, with repeated treatments if necessary, eggs will also need to be removed and this can be effectively done with the use of a fine toothed nit comb. Please ensure all are removed to avoid reinfestation.
- It is recommended that children with long hair should attend school with hair tied back.
- Where an active case is detected, parents will not send their child to school with untreated headlice (Under Section 27 of the School Education Act 1999, a principal may exclude a child with head lice from school until treatment has commenced). The school encourages immediate treatment and return to school the day after appropriate treatment has commenced.
- The principal or their nominee will contact the family to ask that a student be checked and receive treatment if necessary.
- Parents/caregivers will notify the school if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced.
- The school will notify parents/caregivers of children in a classroom where an active case of headlice is detected in the classroom in a week, to alert these families of the need to check more frequently.

To support parents/caregivers and the broader school community to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to headlice management the school will undertake to:

- Distribute up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of headlice to students, staff and their families at the beginning of the year or more frequently if required.
- Include information and updates in school newsletters
- Accept the notification of parents/caregivers that appropriate treatment has commenced.
- Encourage children to learn about headlice.

