

# Laguna Public School



## Managing Head Lice at Laguna Public School

Head lice are parasitic insects that can be found on the human head. They feed on human blood and live close to the scalp. Head lice are not known to transmit diseases and are an unfortunate and unavoidable fact of life for all school aged children. Research suggests that at any given time, almost one quarter of all NSW primary students are infested.

We take several measures to minimise the risk of children being exposed at school.

At Laguna Public School:

- we ensure students only use their own hats, which are clearly labelled
- we do not use spare hats; any students without a hat play in shaded areas of the playground
- we keep a lookout for children scratching and discreetly advise parents
- when advised by a parent that they have discovered head lice in their child's hair, we will send a note home to all parents to check the children's hair
- in cases where parents discover head lice in their child's hair, we ask that the child not return to school unless their hair has been treated.

We respectfully ask parents:

- to check students hair regularly. Many children may not experience itchiness at all.
- to immediately advise the school on discovery of head lice in their child's hair; this will allow us to alert all families to be on the lookout and check their own children's hair (all information passed to the school will be treated in accordance with the Department's privacy policy)
- where head lice are discovered, treat the child's hair before returning to school.
- to consider tying back long hair.

By working together we can mitigate this problem!

Links to further information:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/headlice/pages/default.aspx>

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/wellbeing/health-and-safety/removing-head-lice-and-nits>