

Dear Parents,

Head Lice - Advice for Parents

Please regularly check your child's hair

Wet comb the hair using a plastic lice detection comb for all the family and household members and any other regular close contact e.g. best friends or close relations. Make sure there is good light

- Start with the teeth of the detection comb touching the skin of the scalp at the top of the head and draw the comb carefully towards the edge of the hair. Look carefully at the comb and remove any lice found.
Repeat this over and over from the top of the head to the edge of the hair working around the head.
- If you find head lice, treat those affected with a head lice preparation. Treatments may be obtained on prescription or bought from your local pharmacist.
- Inform all those people who have probably had close contact over the past 4 weeks and advise them to check their heads.
- Inform the head or class teacher and or / school nurse when evidence of infection is found. This will allow them opportunity to take further action if there are increased numbers of cases reported.

- Repeat the same head lice treatment in seven days. (This completes one treatment)
- Continue to check the hair at frequent intervals.
- Report any evidence of continued infection to your School Nurse, local pharmacist or GP.
- Do not continuously repeat treatments. If you think your child has a second infection seek further advice from your school nurse / chemist/ GP

School nurses no longer conduct routine head inspections at school, because this has been shown to be ineffective in controlling head lice. However, your school nurse will be happy to discuss the problem with you and advise you further.

Exclusion

It is not necessary to exclude children from school once the first application of the treatment regime has been used. Prompt contact tracing and early treatment of those infected with head lice will help to reduce further infection.