



# JAMES GILLESPIE'S HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Carer

The following is general information regarding head lice. We will issue this to you periodically as a reminder to be vigilant in checking your child for infection.

## **ADVICE FROM THE SCHOOL ON WHAT TO DO CONCERNING HEAD LICE**

The practice of checking pupils' hair at school for head lice is no longer possible. It proved to be very time consuming and largely ineffective.

Scottish schools have been directed to follow the European Directive on Human Rights. Consequently we will no longer issue a letter to parents/carers informing them of a Head Lice occurrence in their child's class.

The responsibility for monitoring and checking for head lice is that of the parent/carer. If all parents/carers regularly follow the recommendations outlined below then head lice infection will be contained and possibly eradicated.

## **HOW TO PREVENT AN OCCURRENCE OF HEAD LICE – WEEKLY ROUTINES**

- Check you child's hair every week by washing and using conditioner. When the hair is still wet and covered in conditioner, use a fine tooth detection comb to check for the presence of eggs or head lice.
- Check behind the ears and base of the hairline for eggs. If eggs are found, they need to be removed as they will be glued to a hair follicle and if they are not removed then an infection will reoccur.
- Encourage your child to regularly brush or comb their hair and stress the importance of personal hygiene.

## **WHAT TO DO IF A HEAD LICE INFECTION OCCURS**

- Option 1 - Visit your local pharmacist and ask their advice on insecticide lotions, these should kill all the living head lice. Follow the instructions provided carefully.
- Option 2 - Use the wet combing method, also known as 'bug busting'. This is the non-chemical approach and involves mechanical combing of all lice from the hair over a period of approx. 3 weeks.
- Eggs will still require to be removed with a fine toothed detection comb, using the washing and conditioning method.
- Once finished the insecticide course, continue to use a detection comb and conditioning techniques on a weekly basis as a preventative measure.
- **Do not use insecticides as a preventative measure as regular use may result in insecticide resistance.**

Further Information can be obtained from the school Welfare Assistant, your GP and other health care professionals.

*D. J. Macdonald*

Mr. D. J. Macdonald  
Head Teacher/Ceannard