

Dear Parent/Guardian

New guidelines on the issue of head louse infection in schools have been issued through the Public Health Dept., of all Health and Social Services Boards in Northern Ireland. These guidelines no longer support routine head inspection of school children or the circulation of “alert” letters to parents. I feel however that parents do need to know if head lice have been discovered and this letter is to confirm that they have been reported in your child’s class. I would draw your attention to the following information regarding this problem.

*Treatment of suspected head louse infection should only be used if a living moving louse is found.

*One complete treatment requires two applications seven days apart.

*Head lice are only transmitted by direct prolonged head to head contact.

*The primary responsibility for the identification treatment and prevention of head lice in a family lies with the parent.

*Regular combing with fine comb is the best preventative measure.

Parents should not feel embarrassed if they find signs of head lice infestation but should take steps to address it. Advice on lotions etc. for the treatment of head lice is available from your local Health Centre, G.P. pharmacist or school nurse.

Yours sincerely,

Principal