



Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál
New Inn, Cashel,
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12/1/23

Dear Parents

It has come to our recent attention that once again head-lice is a serious problem in the school. While we appreciate your frustration at dealing with this, there is little that we as a school can do without the full support of every parent. The staff are very happy to hold co-ordinated lessons on hair hygiene prevention of lice but the onus is on parents to check and treat their own child regularly (once a week). It is also highly advisable that children with long hair need to tie it up while in school.

Please see below HSE guidelines on treating head-lice. Remember this is a community issue and won't be solved on an individual basis.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Tomás Mc Loughlin

Principal

Headlice Treatment

Wet Combing

Wet combing is recommended in all cases, in addition to when other treatments are used.

Wet Combing has shown cure rates of 57%.

How to wet comb

1. Wash the hair using an ordinary shampoo
2. Apply plenty of conditioner to help with straightening and detangling the hair
3. Straighten and detangle the wet hair using a wide-toothed comb
4. When the comb moves freely through the hair without dragging, switch to using a head lice detection comb

5. Make sure the teeth of the comb slot into the hair at the roots, with the deeply bevelled edge lightly touching the scalp, and draw the comb down to the ends of the hair with every stroke
6. Check the comb for lice after each stroke, and remove them by wiping or rinsing the comb
7. Work through the hair section by section
8. Rinse out the conditioner
9. Depending on the length of hair, this can take between 10 minutes (for short hair) to 30 minutes (for longer hair)
10. Repeat the combing procedure in the wet hair to check for any lice that might have been missed the first time

One wet combing session should be done every 3 to 4 days for at least 2 weeks, continued until no lice are seen for 3 consecutive sessions.

Headlice Treatment Application

Manufacturer's directions for use need to be followed closely to ensure a safe and effective outcome.

When applying treatment:

- The product should be applied to all the hair, from the roots to the tips
- Particular attention should be paid to ensuring application to the nape of the neck and behind the ears

Caution

Some products for the eradication of head lice infestations are combustible/flammable when on the hair and can ignite and cause serious harm in the presence of an open flame or other source of ignition

Patients and carers should be advised on the safe and correct use of head lice eradication treatments and if appropriate, should be advised that they should not smoke around treated hair and that it should be kept away from open flames or other sources of ignition.