HEAD LICE MANAGEMENT CHART

Comb wet hair using a fine-toothed detector comb at least once a week

Health Protection Agency

Check family and friends for head lice

If LIVE LICE are found

If NO live lice NO ACTION

Treatment Option One:
WET COMBING

- **Wash the hair in the normal way with an ordinary shampoo**
- **While the hair is very wet, comb through the hair from the roots with a fine-toothed comb**
- **Make sure the teeth of the comb slot into the hair at the roots with every stroke.**
  This should be done over a pale surface, such as a paper towel or the bath
- **Repeat this routine every day for two weeks, so that any lice emerging from the eggs are removed they can be spread**

Treatment Option Two:
INSECTICIDES

- **Check with your pharmacist, GP or School Nurse which preparations are recommended**
- **Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully**
- **After treatment and whilst the hair is still wet, a fine-toothed comb may be used to remove dead lice**
- **It could take up to 24 hours for lice to die, so do not assume the treatment has not worked**
- **To ensure treatment has been successful, detection combing on wet hair should be carried out on all treated persons three times over the next seven days**
- **REPEAT treatment on the SEVENTH DAY whether or not lice are found**
- **Small lice means that the eggs were not affected by the first treatment. A repeat treatment will kill the baby lice before they can lay more eggs**
- **Large lice means that the head has been re-infested – so contact tracing and the treatment cycle will have to be restarted**

AFTER SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT:

Comb wet hair using a fine-toothed comb at least Once a week

IF TREATMENT NOT SUCCESSFUL

IF LARGE LICE FOUND:
Check family and friends for Head lice

IF SMALL LICE FOUND:
Use Treatment One

ACTION:
Repeat treatments

If treatment Option One used previously use Treatment Option Two

If treatment Option Two used previously use Treatment Option One