

Japanese school 'forces girl to dye hair black'

31st October, 2017



An 18-year-old girl in Japan is suing her local government after her school told her to dye her hair black. The third-year student attended a high school in the city of Habikino, just east of Osaka. Even though she had naturally brown hair, the school repeatedly told her to dye it black. She said she had to dye her hair black to follow the school's rules. Japan's 'Mainichi' newspaper

reported that school staff started telling the girl to dye her hair every one to two weeks. In her second year, this changed to once every four days. The student's mother said her daughter eventually developed a rash on her scalp and that her hair became badly damaged. The girl also suffered from stress throughout her three years at high school.

The student is suing the local government for \$20,000 in damages. She told the court on October 27th that the school bullied her for three years to dye her hair. She said that the school would not accept her hair was naturally brown. She was banned from school trips and school festivals because of her brown hair. The girl told the court that teachers said things to her in front of the class that caused great embarrassment to her. This caused her psychological damage. She said that a teacher told her that she should not come to school if she didn't dye her hair. The girl said that she was so stressed one day that she collapsed and had to be taken to hospital by ambulance.

Sources: mainichi.jp / reuters.com / asahi.com

Writing

We should all keep our natural hair colour and not use hair dye. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

18-year-old / dye / high school / east / school rules / two weeks / rash / scalp / stress / local / government / bullied / hair / festivals / embarrassment / damage / ambulance

True / False

- The girl who was forced to dye her hair is just eight years old. T / F
- The girl went to a school in the east of Osaka. T / F
- The school told the girl to dye her hair every four days. T / F
- The girl's hair was not damaged. T / F
- The student wants \$20,000 in damages from the local government. T / F
- The school did not let the girl go on school trips. T / F
- The girl said teachers embarrassed her in front of the class. T / F
- The girl collapsed and a teacher took her to hospital by car. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. suing | a. compensation |
| 2. dye | b. went to |
| 3. attended | c. fainted |
| 4. repeatedly | d. all over |
| 5. throughout | e. shame |
| 6. damages | f. taking to court |
| 7. banned | g. mental |
| 8. embarrassment | h. again and again |
| 9. psychological | i. colour |
| 10. collapsed | j. forbidden |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think of dyed hair?
- Are you happy with your hair colour?
- Should people keep their natural hair colour?
- Is the girl right to sue the local government?
- What do you think of the girl's school?
- How important is it for school students to follow rules?
- Should all school students wear tidy uniforms and hair styles?
- Should the girl get the \$20,000 in damages?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. The third-year student | a. one to two weeks |
| 2. she had naturally | b. by ambulance |
| 3. dye her hair every | c. rash on her scalp |
| 4. developed a | d. for \$20,000 in damages |
| 5. suffered from stress throughout | e. bullied her for three years |
| 6. suing the local government | f. brown hair |
| 7. the school | g. damage |
| 8. She was banned | h. her three years |
| 9. This caused her psychological | i. from school trips |
| 10. taken to hospital | j. attended a high school |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What should schools do about bullies?
- What advice would you give to the girl?
- Are school rules too strict?
- What colour hair would you like?
- Should schools treat students in a kinder way?
- What is your favourite hairstyle and why?
- What questions would you like to ask the girl?

Spelling

- local ervmtnengo
- atdetned a high school
- she had aluyrnrlta brown hair
- the school dayleeertp told her
- odepdvele a rash on her scalp
- utrghuotoh her three years
- the school lubeild her
- school isvfatsle
- psychological gaadme
- she was so eresdsst
- she esolladpc
- taken to hospital by maenlcbua

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. b	4. h	5. d
6. a	7. j	8. e	9. g	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Hair Dye

You think hair dye is the most important hair product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their products aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): conditioner, a hair brush or hair spray.

Role B – Conditioner

You think conditioner is the most important hair product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their products aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): hair dye, a hair brush or hair spray.

Role C – Hair Brush

You think a hair brush is the most important hair product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their products aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): conditioner, hair dye or hair spray.

Role D – Hair Spray

You think hair spray is the most important hair product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their products aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): conditioner, a hair brush or hair dye.

Speaking – Hair

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| • conditioner | • hair dye |
| • hair dryer | • shampoo |
| • hair gel | • brush |
| • hair spray | • rollers |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.