

Swimming Policy

Aims

To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming skills while they are at St. Joseph's N.S

To comply with the requirements of the Revised Curriculum in aquatics.

Rationale

The school has regard to both the physical and mental development of each of its pupils. Believing that a healthy body promotes a healthy mind, the school arranges for a six- eight week course of swimming instruction in the Graiguecullen swimming pool for each of its students during the school year.

Swimming Guidelines

- Each pupil will have the opportunity to attend a 6-8 week session in a swimming pool annually from Jun. Inf. – 6th class.
- Attendance at this course fulfils the Aquatics Module of the PE Curriculum as laid down by the Department of Education and parents defray the cost of the course and also that of the transport to and from the pool.
- Pupils will be accompanied by and supervised by a staff member on the way to and from the pool. Pupils will travel by bus or car to the pool and the staff will provide supervision before and after the swimming lesson.
- Pupils attending the course at any given time will be from a combination of both senior and junior classes. This is to allow for the different levels of swimmers to be spread out over various sections of the pools..
- Deodorants must not be brought to the pool as the dressing rooms are confined spaces and they leave a strong smell.
- All items brought to the pool must be clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Mobile phones and cameras are forbidden to be used in the swimming pool premises by both adults and children for child protection reasons.

Instructional Arrangements

Members of staff will organise the swimming sessions for all classes. Instruction in the pool will be provided by the pool instructors.

Special Needs Pupils

The SNA's are required to assist the Special Needs pupils to undress and dress before and after swimming lessons in Graiguecullen Swimming Pool. They should also assist the child to enter and exit the pool and be available at all times during the swimming lesson to take the child from the swimming instructor if he/she was no longer taking part in the lesson.

The SNA's are not required to enter the water with the child. They do not have sufficient training to do so. It is the responsibility of the instructor, be it an individual or group instructor to teach the special needs pupil their swimming lessons. It is the decision of the swimming pool whether or not the pupil is capable of being in a group swimming situation or an individual one. This depends on the ability of the individual child in the water. If the child is required to have an individual instructor the cost is incurred by the parent/guardian. This decision may be reached before or after the child's first lesson in the pool.

In relation to school tours, where classes are visiting a swimming pool or a water area e.g. an adventure park the same procedures apply. SNA's are not required to enter the water with the special needs pupil. If the parent/guardian feels that their child needs individual assistance in the water, a staff member from the given establishment may be employed and the cost of same is incurred by the parent/guardian of the child.

Health and Safety

Best practice in relation to the supervision, instruction and child protection procedures as outlined by the Irish Sports Council, Swim Ireland and the National Safety Council will be adhered to at all times. Staff will follow the guidelines of our own Safety Statement and Child Protection Policy at all times

All adults entering the dressing rooms must have been Garda vetted for the school. In the female dressing room school staff and parents of children who are swimming supervise the children. One adult will not be supervising the children on their own at any time. In the male dressing room, if a staff member is not present a member of school staff will stand in the link corridor outside the male dressing room to supervise. Parents who have been Garda vetted and are on the supervision roster will also supervise. Along with that a male member of the pool staff may be regularly in and out checking the boys in the dressing room.

The school will make every effort to set up a supervision roster of parents who are Garda vetted for the dressing rooms to support the supervision already in place.

Pupils are required to behave at all times in a manner that ensures the safety of all involved in school swimming. Pupils must obey the instructor's orders at all times and comply with the school's Code of Behaviour Policy and the pool's Health and Safety Guidelines.

Parents should be aware that our Healthy Eating Policy still applies during swimming lessons. No treats are permitted during this time as the swimming lessons are part of a normal school day.

Parents/guardians will receive a standard letter providing information on school swimming before their child starts their swimming term. A consent note accompanied by the fees for swimming lessons must be paid prior to the start of the swimming term.

Children in 5th and 6th. classes will use the cubicles for changing. A parent of a child in a younger class who feels their child has a need which necessitates their changing in a cubicle must submit a request in writing to the school principal.

Where a parent/guardian has a health concern regarding their child's participation in swimming, professional advice must be sought before the child participates in the swimming lesson.

In the best interest of the child, it is the duty of parents/guardians to inform the class teacher and/ or Principal with regard to any health condition that may affect the child in the pool. This information will be held in confidence and provided on a need to know basis to the swimming instructors.

Updated and Ratified by Board of Management on _____

Signed _____

Chairperson, Board of Management