

*St Joseph's NS
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Swimming Policy

Aims:

- To facilitate pupils in acquiring basic swimming skills while they are students at St Joseph's NS.
- To comply with the requirement of the Revised curriculum in aquatics.

Rationale:

The school values 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 all students from 1st to 6th class during the school year.

Swimming Guidelines:

- Each pupil from 1st class – 6th class will have the opportunity to attend a 6 – 8 week session in a swimming pool annually.
- Attendance at this course fulfils the Aquatics strand of the PE curriculum as laid down by the Department of Education and Skills.
- Parents are responsible for the cost of the course and bus to and from the pool.
- For this period, swimming will constitute PE lessons for the school. (Except in Junior and Senior Infants)
- Pupils will be accompanied by and supervised by staff members on the way to and from the pool. Staff will provide supervision in the changing rooms etc before and after the swimming lesson.
- Pupils will be grouped according to their level of skill. This will be determined by trained pool staff.
- Deodorants must not be brought to the pool as the dressing rooms are confined spaces.
- All items brought to the pool must be clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Mobile phones and cameras are not to be used on the swimming pool premises for Child Protection reasons.
- Healthy eating policy applies – No treats are permitted on swimming trips as swimming lessons are treated as part of the school day.

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

Health and Safety:

Best practice in relation to the supervision, instruction and child protection procedures as outlined in the pool Child Safety Statement. Staff will follow the school Child Safety Statement and Child Protection Policy at all times.

- Only members of staff (fully vetted) are permitted entry to the dressing rooms.
- Two or more adults in changing rooms.
- Children are required to behave at all times in a manner that ensures the safety of all involved in school swimming. They are required to obey the instructors orders at all times and comply with the school code of behaviour.
- All children must travel to and from the pool on the bus provided. (In certain cases staff members may be asked to travel by car with children.) **Do not ask for alternative travel arrangements as refusal may offend.**
- Children in 5th and 6th class will use the cubicles for changing. The parent of a child in a younger class who feels that 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 lessons, professional advice must be sought before the child participates in the lesson.
- In the best interest of the child, it is the duty of the parents/guardians of the child to inform the class teacher and/or principal of 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.

Instructional Arrangements:

Members of staff will organise the swimming lessons.
Instruction in the pool will be provided by the pool instructors.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs:

SNAs are required to assist children, who have allocated access to assistance, with dressing and undressing before and after swimming lessons in Graiguecullen pool. They will also assist the child with entering and exiting the pool and be available at all times during the lesson to assist the instructor with any issues that may arise.

SNAs 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 (individual or group) to instruct the child in learning to swim.

It is the decision of the pool staff to decide if a group session or individual session is most appropriate for the child. If a child is required to have an individual instructor, the cost will be incurred by the parent/guardian.

School Tours:

When the school is visiting a swimming pool as part of a school tour, the same procedures apply. If a 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.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of the above school on

Signed:

Ted Forde
Chairperson

Doireann Hester
Secretary