

St Daigh's N S

Swimming Policy

Introduction

This policy is the result of the collaboration of the staff of St Daigh's N S together with the Board of Management

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 week course of swimming instruction in the Aura Leisure Centre swimming pool for students from Third to Sixth class during the school year. The staff identified the need for a policy to ensure the well-being of staff and children when partaking in swimming.

Aims

The Swimming Policy aims:

- To comply with the requirements of the Revised Curriculum in aquatics.
- To ensure child safeguarding and the dignity of children in a vulnerable situation.
- To provide clarity of rules and responsibilities.

Procedures and Guidelines

- Each pupil will have the opportunity to attend a term of six weeks of swimming lessons annually from Third to Sixth Class.
- Costs incurred by hiring of pool, transport to and from pool and payment of instructors necessitate a charge being imposed on each pupil. Inability to pay will not preclude a pupil from participating fully in swimming classes. Please put money in an envelope with child's name written on it. Payment can be made on a daily basis, fortnightly or in one block, whichever suits.
- All children attending swimming should wear clothing which they can manage themselves. Swimming togs may be worn under clothing coming to school. However, we recommend that girls do not wear a one-piece swim suit under their uniform. Girls are asked to remember to bring underwear in their bag if they decide to wear the swim suit under their tracksuit. Each child must have a suitable bag to carry his/her swimming gear such as a sports bag or similar type of bag with a secure zip or other fastening and a plastic bag for the wet gear. The wearing of swim hats is compulsory in Aura Leisure Centre Swimming Pool. Children may also wear swim goggles. Children should wear their tracksuits and runners to school on swim day.
- Generally, children who do not have special needs will have sufficiently developed personal care skills to manage changing/dressing with ease. Children

with special needs and who have been granted access to a Special Needs Assistant (SNA) will be assisted by the SNA.

- The SNA may be required to enter the water with the child. 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 responsibility of the swimming instructor to decide on what swimming group level each child should be swimming with. This is determined at the first week of the swimming lesson term. The class teacher does not determine what level each child should swim with.
- The school will endeavour to have two adults present in each dressing room to supervise the children before and after the swimming lesson.
- All items brought to the pool should be clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Each child must have their own togs, towel, hair brush (if necessary) and swim cap, all of which should be labelled.
- No toiletries (e.g. shampoo, shower gel, deodorant, after shave, perfume) are permitted. Hairdryers are not permitted.
- While in the pool, pupils must endeavour to obey the instructor's orders at all times and comply with the School Code of Behaviour.
- Children are required to comply with the School Code of Behaviour throughout any outing to the swimming pool.
- Teachers/SNAs will remain on the viewing deck during the lesson in order to supervise the overall group and pupils who may need to use the toilets during the lesson.
- Pupils will be accompanied by and supervised by a teacher on the way to and from the pool. Pupils will travel by bus to the pool and the teacher will provide supervision before and after the swimming lesson.
- To allow for the different levels of swimmers to be spread out over various sections of the pool at least two class groups will attend at the same time.

Instructional Arrangements

- The school will organise the swimming programme for all classes from Third to Sixth Class including children in the ASD/MGLD classes of similar age if it is deemed safe and suitable for their needs.
- Instruction in the pool will be provided by qualified instructors.

Health and Safety

- Staff will follow the guidelines of our own Health & Safety and Child Safeguarding Statement policies at all times.
- Pupils are required to behave at all times in a manner that ensures the safety of all involved in school swimming. Pupils must endeavour to obey the instructors and teachers' orders at all times and comply with the School Code of Behaviour.
- Parents/guardians will receive a standard letter providing information on school swimming before their child starts their swimming term.
- All pupils must have a signed permission slip by a parent/guardian in order to participate in swimming lessons. Failure to provide this signed permission slip means that the child cannot participate.

- The pool will be provided with information regarding any child with a Special Educational Need, physical disability or medical diagnosis that may compromise their safety at swimming, e.g. Epilepsy, diabetes.
- If any injury or accident occurs at the pool. The lifeguard on duty will attend to the injury. Any incident reports completed by the swimming pool staff will be copied and brought back to the school.
- Staff from the school who are supervising swimming are expected to communicate any concerns regarding health and safety of the pupils to the swimming pool staff and the school management.

Success Criteria

Our Swimming Policy will be seen to be working well when:

- The school community is clear about and is committed to the principles that are outlined in this policy and correct procedures are being implemented.
- Positive feedback from members of the school community (teachers, pupils, SNAs, parents/guardians) is received.
- Positive feedback from Aura Leisure Centre is received.

Roles and Responsibility

The Board of Management, Principal, teachers, SNAs have both a role and a responsibility in successfully implementing this policy.

The policy will be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis by the school staff in conjunction with the Board of Management.

Implementation

This policy is effective from March 2023.

Review Timetable

This policy will be reviewed in 2 years' time or earlier if necessary and amended as required by means of a whole school collaborative process.


Ratification & Communication

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 8th March 2023.

Parents will be made aware in the next school communication that the policy is available for viewing by appointment in school or alternatively on the school website.



Chairperson Board of Management



Principal

Date: 8th March 2023