

St. Andrew's N.S.



Swimming Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with all other school policies.

Policy Ratified

October 2018

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Introduction

The school endeavours to promote both the physical and mental development of each of its pupils. In the belief that learning to swim is a vital life skill and that a healthy body promotes a healthy mind, the school arranges for a six to eight week course of swimming instruction in the Shoreline swimming pool for all students from First to Sixth Class during the school year.

Attendance at this course fulfils the Aquatics Module of the PE Curriculum as laid down by the Department of Education and Skills. Parents defray the cost of the course and also that of the transport to and from the pool. If a parent is unable to meet this cost, the Board of Management will offer to defray the cost for them. All pupils participate except in cases for whom a medical certificate excusing them on medical grounds is provided and in exceptional circumstances with permission from the principal/ Deputy principal.

Changing Arrangements

- Pupils attending the course are advised to wear their tracksuit on swimming days. (Swimming togs may be worn under tracksuits coming to school).
- Each child must have a suitable bag to carry his/her swimming gear (Sports bag or similar with secure zip or other fastening).
- All items brought to the pool must be clearly labelled with the child's name
- Each child must have their own togs, towel, hair brush (if needed) and swim cap, all of which must also be clearly labelled.
- Pupils with long hair may use the hairdryers under adult supervision only if time permits as timescales in dressing rooms and transport are very constricted. We would suggest that pupils have a spare towel for their hair.
- It is expected that all pupils will change in the changing room allocated to them. It is only in exceptional circumstances that pupils may be allowed to use a changing cubicle.

Travel and Supervision Arrangements

Pupils will travel to the Swimming Pool by bus accompanied by their class teachers and Special Needs Assistants where applicable. At least two or three parents will be requested to accompany teachers and pupils at the pool to help with supervision and with dressing and undressing smaller children. **All parents helping with swimming must be Garda Vetted.**

Staff members accompany pupils on swimming buses and must ensure that they are secured in seats with safety belts. Pupils may not leave seats or unbuckle safety belts while bus is in motion. Parents will assist with supervision in the changing rooms to help ensure the children's safety and well-being. The school will endeavour to have one male supervisor with a staff member in the male changing room and two females in the female changing room wherever possible. However, female members of staff are authorised to supervise in the male changing room when necessary. Pupils should be facilitated to dress/undress in as discreet a manner as possible, age appropriately.

Supervision in the Changing Rooms

- There should be two adults in the changing room at any one time.
- The door to the dressing room must be left ajar.
- In the interest of respect for our pupils, adults should stand with their backs to older pupils (pupils from 3rd to 6th) These pupils should be able to dress themselves.

- Pupils should be able to dress and undress independently.
- Once pupils are dressed they should line up outside the changing room where a teacher will supervise.
- Pupils with long hair may use the hairdryers under adult supervision when time permits.
- In exceptional cases some pupils may be permitted to use individual cubicles. This must be agreed by the class teacher and the principal/deputy principal. An adult must stand in the vicinity of cubicles at all times.
- While all parents are welcome to view their child swimming, **only parents who are on the rota for that particular day are permitted into the changing room/area.**

Supervision Whilst Swimming

Parents are welcome to view their child swimming from the viewing gallery. While the overall responsibility of pupils whilst swimming rests with the swimming instructors, teachers are expected to supervise and monitor behaviour from the side of the pool or the viewing deck.

There should be two adults by the changing room side of the pool to assist should a pupil sustain an injury or need to use the toilet.

If a pupil requires to use the toilet adults must check and make sure that no member of the public is using the facilities prior to the pupil entering. **This applies for pupils who are/ are not swimming.**

Adults should never be left alone with an individual pupil e.g. waiting for the last pupil to finish dressing.

Pupils with Additional Needs

At times the swimming instructors may ask another adult to accompany a pupil in the pool. A teacher or SNA may agree to do so but **they are not obliged to do so.** In such cases a parent/guardian may be asked to undertake this role. This must be agreed with the Principal.

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 must be adhered to 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 are required to behave in a respectful and co-operative manner towards their swimming teachers and other staff of the swimming pool.
- Parents/guardians will receive a standard letter providing information on school swimming before their child starts their swimming lessons.
- 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. It is Board of Management Policy that all pupils attend swimming lessons unless the school is furnished with a medical cert stating otherwise or in very exceptional circumstances.
- If a child is not to participate in swimming on any particular week of the lesson block the teacher should be supplied with a note to that effect from the parent/guardian. The pupil in question will accompany the class to the pool and sit in the viewing gallery where they will be supervised by their teachers and the parents on duty. They will be asked to bring a book to read or drawing materials.
- In the best interests of the child, it is the duty of parents/guardians to inform the class teacher and/ or Principal about 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.

- Spray deodorants etc. must not be brought to the swimming complex as the dressing rooms are confined spaces.
- Pupils with asthma: it is the responsibility of pupils/parents to have their inhaler in their swimming bag. It may be helpful for pupils to have a second inhaler which remains in their school bag.
- Pupils requiring Epi-pens: it is the teachers responsibility to bring the epi-pen from the classroom to the swimming pool. It is parents responsibility to ensure epi-pen is in date.

Data protection

The school furnish the swimming instructors with a list of the first names of pupils only for the duration of the swimming lesson.

Monitoring / Evaluation / Review:

Policy is revised every two years or as the need arises.

October 2018

Signed on behalf of the Board of Management

Signed: _____

Date: _____

(Chairperson of the BOM)