

Health and Safety with Swimming

AIMS OF TEACHING SWIMMING

- To teach the children an important life-long skill
- To provide a meaningful and safe swimming experience for children.
 - To reinforce the stated aims of the school in relation to physical education; the personal and social development of children and their health and wellbeing.
- To meet the requirements of the National Curriculum. Pupils should be taught to:
 - Pace themselves in floating and swimming challenges related to speed, distance and personal survival.
 - Swim unaided for a sustained period of time over a distance of at least 25m.
 - Use recognised arm and leg actions lying on front and back.
 - Use a range of recognised strokes and personal survival skills [for example, front crawl, back crawl, breaststroke, sculling, floating and surface diving].

ORGANISATION

Swimming at New Ash Green Primary school is timetabled for children in Years 3 and 4. Children are transported to the swimming pool.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All children have equal access to the Swimming Curriculum regardless of race, gender, creed or ability, in line with the school's policies on Special Education Needs and Disabilities. Any child with special educational needs will participate in all activities as far as possible according to his/her abilities, in consultation with the Inclusion Co-ordinator, parents and any special needs personnel. If for any reason it is not possible to provide swimming for a child then alternative, appropriate activities will be provided.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The role of the class teacher:

- The welfare and safety of children at all times
- Overall maintenance of good discipline.
- Counting children into and out of the building.
- Confirm attendance levels and any relevant medical information.
- Ensure arrangements are made to provide for children with special needs and confirm risk assessment.
- Adhere to health and safety requirements.

The role of Support TA's:

- The welfare of specific children in changing rooms and shower area.
- Supervision and oversight of any designated child, ensuring the child understands and follows instructions.
- Consult with the accompanying teacher and agree arrangements to be made about the provision for children with special needs and confirm risk assessment.
- Adhere to health and safety requirements.

The Role of those who teach the swimming skills

- Teaching groups of children swimming skills at appropriate level
- Provide support for other adults taking swimming groups.
- Ensuring children's achievements are recorded.

Those teaching swimming will:

- Have the appropriate training and skill to enable them to teach effectively
- Possess DBS clearance.
- Organise classes according to: Class numbers. Pupil ability. Numbers of teachers/adult helpers.
- Provide support where necessary for other adult helpers.
- Consult with the accompanying teacher and agree arrangements to be made about the provision for children with special needs and confirm risk assessment.
- Ensure all equipment ready and in the correct place in the teaching area.
- Make best use of available pool space using dividing ropes where appropriate.

LIFEGUARD / POOL SAFETY PROVISION

Someone always has the responsibility for life guarding / rescue and resuscitation, and must be suitably trained and qualified. In teaching sessions, the degree of control inherently in place is likely to reduce the risks.

HEALTH AND SAFETY DUTY OF CARE

'The duty of care for pupils involved in swimming remains at all times with the accompanying teacher.'

MEDICAL CONDITIONS

There must be an alerting mechanism/procedure in place for children at risk. Different needs will require different courses of action and may require safety arrangements. These arrangements must be clearly understood by all supervising adults. This will be specified in a risk assessment undertaken for children at risk.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Children should always enter and leave the swimming pool area under supervision and be counted into and out of the swimming pool area.

IN THE CHANGING ROOMS

Encourage good behaviour in the changing rooms. This will not only ensure the safety and wellbeing of pupils but will also help to set the tone of the lesson. For the safety of the individual and the group, no jewellery of any kind is to be worn in the water. Remind the children to attend to their personal and toilet requirements and to be clean before entering the pool. Wherever possible, supervision and changing of pupils should be undertaken by school staff and/or accompanying helper of the same gender.

INSTRUCTOR/TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

The school is responsible for undertaking a periodic risk assessment of the school's swimming provision. Ensure all children are suitably attired. Make sure that the children are aware of the deep and shallow ends of the pool. Know the location and function of safety equipment – the telephone, and first-aid kits. Know the Normal Operating Procedures of the pool and Emergency Action Plan arrangements. Ensure appropriate poolside equipment for safety is available. Be able to contact pool staff immediately in the event of any emergency.

ASSESSMENT AND RECORDING

The swimming ability of the children will be assessed at the beginning of a unit of work by the swimming instructor and recorded. Records will be kept of the progress of individual pupils throughout the unit of work. Certificates are used to reward children's achievements