

NATIONAL CURRICULUM SWIMMING
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS : 2022/2023

1. STATEMENT

- All children should have the opportunity to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum for Physical Education related to swimming at Key Stage 2 and parents/carers should regard the swimming programme as an integral part of the National Curriculum for Physical Education.

2. AIMS

- To fulfil the requirements of the national Curriculum at Key Stage 2, by providing a quality programme of swimming lessons for Key Stage 2 primary school pupils and Special Schools.
- To provide a safe and caring environment for pupils to learn to swim.
- To develop pupils' confidence in water activities.
- To develop pupils' confidence in swimming
- To teach pupils to appreciate what is good practice in relation to safety of themselves and others.

3. POOLSIDE

- The Head teacher is responsible for ensuring that a qualified School Teacher accompanies each class of pupils to the pool.
- This teacher will be designated as the 'Teacher in Charge'. In terms of the word qualified, this does not mean that the teacher should hold a swim teaching qualification, but that they are a bona fide qualified school teacher.
- The 'Teacher in Charge' remains in 'loco parentis' at all times. To carry out this function the Teacher in Charge **should remain on the poolside at all times unless previously agreed with the swim teachers.**
- A duty of care for pupils involved with swimming remains at all times with the Teacher in Charge. National Curriculum Swimming Teachers are specialist instructors, employed to provide swimming lessons. Their role is to complement the skills and experience of the Teacher in Charge, in the delivery of the programme. It is essential the Teacher in Charge and the swimming teachers enjoy a good working relationship and understand that the Teacher in Charge has the responsibility for monitoring the progress of the pupils, regardless of who directs the session.
- All jewellery (including stud earrings), for the safety of the individual and the group as a whole must be removed.
- Medi-Alert bracelets/necklaces are not classed as jewellery
- The chewing of sweets or gum during a lesson is not permitted
- Pupils will be encouraged to look for and report unseemly or unacceptable behaviour, especially where safety is compromised.
- Swimwear should be suitable for its purpose. For cultural, religious or socio/economic reasons pupils will be welcome in the pool in clothing other than the usual swimming

costume. However, the swimwear chosen should enable freedom of movement and not constitute a health and safety risk to the wearer or others. The pupil may be confined to the shallow end until they can demonstrate that the swimwear does not constitute a health and safety risk.

- On the grounds of health and safety, a discussion may need to take place between the head teacher, swimming teachers and parent/carer of a pupil who would normally wear religious headgear, and feel that a swimming cap is not a suitable alternative.
- Private changing/showering arrangements can be agreed. Providing the head teacher ensures that their staff can manage the separate changing facilities. Parents/carers should speak to school staff in respect of these arrangements.
- Goggles are recommended and should be made of unbreakable plastic or rubber materials.

4. PUPILS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS OR MEDICAL CONDITIONS

- Written medical approval (in advance) to attend swimming lessons is essential for all pupils who suffer from any medical condition that may render them unconscious e.g. epilepsy or diabetes. Pupils with epilepsy must be under the constant surveillance of a 'spotter' whilst in the water. If necessary they should work alongside a responsible person when out of their depth, as shimmering water or flickering light may cause an attack. **It is essential that this written approval is passed to the school, as a copy of written approval must be given to the swim teacher prior to the commencement of lessons.**
- Medi-Alert bracelets/necklaces are not classed as jewellery.
- It is recommended that parents/carers of pupils that suffer from any known ear ailments or who have grommets fitted, obtain written medical approval as to whether their child should be allowed to complete the underwater elements of the programme. A copy of the written medical approval must be given to the Lead Swimming Teacher prior to the commencement of the first lesson
- It is permissible for pupils with visual impairments to wear prescription swimming goggles.
- Asthma inhalers – if any pupil brings an asthma inhaler to school, it must be labelled with the child's name and accompany them onto the poolside where it should be kept within their reach.
- Verrucas – pupils with a verruca are permitted to swim unless excluded by their own doctor. However, it is essential that they wear a plastic verruca sock or use an appropriate medical waterproofing seal, available from high street chemists.
- Parents/Carers of pupils with Downs Syndrome should seek written medical approval as to whether it is safe for their child to take part in activities such as butterfly or breaststroke, because of the increased chances of them suffering from atlanto-axial instability. A copy of written approval must be given to your child's school and the swim teacher prior to the commencement of lessons.
- Pupils with weeping or open wounds/abrasions will not be permitted to swim