



Scoil Phádraic Cailíní

Portrane Road, Donabate, Co. Dublin

Donabate Girls' National School

Swimming Policy

Aims

- To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming skills while they are at Scoil Phadraic Cailini
- To comply with the requirements of the Revised Curriculum in aquatics.
- To provide clarity of rules and responsibilities

Rationale

The school has regard to both the physical and mental development of each of its pupils. Being able to swim is an invaluable life skill that will support the child's safety around water throughout their lifetime. Believing that a healthy body promotes a healthy mind, the school arranges for a 6-8 week course of swimming instruction (depending on the school calendar) in a swimming pool in North County Dublin for each of its students in 2nd and 3rd class during the school year.

Swimming Lessons: Guidelines

- Each pupil will attend a term of swimming lessons annually in 2nd and 3rd class.
- The swimming pool is reserved for forty-five minutes once a week during the swimming term.
- Attendance at this course fulfils the Aquatics Module of the PE Curriculum as laid down by the Department of Education and parents defray the cost of the course and also that of the transport to and from the pool. Inability to pay will not preclude a pupil from participating in swimming lessons but this needs to be discussed with Ms. Greene. An instalments payment facility is available.
- If a child is well enough to attend school then they are required to participate in the swimming lesson. If a child is not well enough to participate in their swimming lesson then they should remain at home until they are well enough to return to school.
- **It is compulsory for all children to participate in aquatics lessons as part of the National Curriculum. Should a child be unable to attend aquatics, due to a medical condition, a letter from the child's doctor must be sent to the school requesting exemption and stating the reason why.** She will travel with the class to the pool and remain under the supervision of a teacher for the duration of the lesson.
- Children are not allowed to be taken away by their parents while the swimming lesson is taking place. It is a normal school day and normal supervision by the class teacher will take place.
- Pupils from both 2nd classes attend the term's lessons together and are accompanied by and supervised by both class teachers plus an additional staff member on the way to and from the pool.

Pupils from both 3rd classes attend the term's lessons together and are accompanied by and supervised by both class teachers plus an additional staff member on the way to and from the pool.

- Pupils will travel by bus to the pool and the class teachers and additional staff member will provide supervision before and after the swimming lesson.
- One teacher remains pool side at all times during the lesson and supervises children going to the toilet.
- Swim teachers are responsible for allocating the children to the different levels of swimmers, spread out over various sections of the pools. The school does not interfere in this allocation process.
- All children attending the course should wear their tracksuit. It is suggested that swimming togs be worn under tracksuits coming to school. Each child must have a suitable bag to carry her swimming gear (Sports bag or similar with secure zip or other fastening).
- All arm bands must be inflated at home and put into the swimming bag.
- Time is limited so no toiletries are permitted.
- There is not enough time to fully dry children's hair with a hair dryer. Therefore a silicone hat is recommended to be worn (as per policy of swimming pool) and girls with long hair should wear their hair tied up for the day.
- Deodorants must not be brought to the pool as the dressing rooms are confined spaces and they leave a strong smell.
- All items brought to the pool should be clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Mobile phones and cameras are forbidden to be used in the swimming pool premises by both adults and children for child protection reasons as per school and swimming pool policy.

Instructional Arrangements

Instruction in the pool will be provided by qualified pool instructors who are Garda Vetted.

Special Needs Pupils

The SNA's are required to assist the Special Needs pupils to undress and dress before and after swimming lessons under the supervision of the class teacher. They should also assist the child to enter and exit the pool and be available at all times during the swimming lesson to take the child from the swimming instructor if she was no longer taking part in the lesson.

The SNA's 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, be it an individual or group instructor to teach the special needs pupil their swimming lessons. It is the decision of the swimming pool whether or not the pupil is capable of being in a group swimming situation or an individual one. This depends on the ability of the individual child in the water. If the child is required to have an individual instructor the cost is incurred by the parent/guardian. This decision may be reached before or after the child's first lesson in the pool.

In relation to school tours, where classes are visiting a swimming pool or a water area e.g. an adventure park the same procedures apply in coherence with School Tour Policy). SNA's are not required to enter the

water with the special needs pupil. If the 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.

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 will be adhered to at all times. Staff will follow the guidelines Children First Act 2015. Three staff members (plus SNA where applicable) will supervise the children in the dressing room.

Pupils are required to behave at all times in a manner that ensures the safety of all involved in school swimming. Pupils must obey the instructor's orders at all times and comply with the school's Code of Behaviour Policy and the pool's Health and Safety Guidelines.

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.

In the best interest of the child, it is the duty of parents/guardians to inform the class teacher and/ or Principal with regard to 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.

Implementation and Review

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management every three years. This will continue to be the Swimming Policy unless a review warrants any changes.

_____ Lisa English _____

_____ March 2018 _____

Chairperson

Date