

Swimming Policy

Merlin Woods Primary School

Rationale

Merlin Woods Primary 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 a local swimming pool, for all students in 3rd and 5th class. Lessons take place during the first term of the school year.

Aims

This swimming policy aims:

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

Procedures and Guidelines

- Each pupil will attend a 6 week term of swimming instruction in 3rd and 5th class. Attendance at this course fulfils the Aquatics module of the P.E Curriculum as laid down by the Department of Education.
- It is compulsory for all pupils to participate in aquatics lessons as part of the National Curriculum. Should a child be unable to attend aquatics lessons, due to a medical condition, a letter from the child's doctor must be given to the school.
- Should a pupil be unable to attend any lesson in the term due to illness, a note explaining the reason must be provided by the parent/guardian. Pupils not swimming on a given day will go to another class until the class returns from swimming.
- Costs incurred by hiring the pool, payment of instructors and transport to and from the pool necessitate a charge being imposed on each pupil.
- All pupils attending swimming lessons should wear clothing which they can manage themselves. Swimwear should be worn under their uniform coming

to school. Each pupil must have a suitable bag to carry his/her swimming gear such as a sports bag or similar with a secure zip or other fastening.

- Pupils who have been granted access to a Special Needs Assistant will be assisted with personal care- changing before and after lessons, organising belongings, walking the pupil to and from the pool.
- All items brought to the pool should be clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Toiletries are not permitted. Pupils are encouraged to rinse quickly after the lessons.
- While in the pool, pupils must endeavour to obey the instructor's orders at all times and comply with the School Code of Behaviour. Pupils are required to comply with the Code of Behaviour on the journey to and from the pool and in the changing rooms.
- Two teachers will remain poolside during the lesson in order to supervise the overall group and pupils who may need to use the toilets during the lesson. The other teachers will remain on the viewing deck, supervising pupils who are not swimming.
- Teachers will walk the pupils to and from the swimming pool and changing rooms.
- Two teachers will supervise the pupils in both the male and female changing rooms before and after the lessons. One staff member will not supervise the pupils on their own at any time.
- Mobile phones and cameras are forbidden to be used in the swimming pool premises by both adults and pupils for child protection reasons.

Instructional Arrangements

- Instruction in the pool will be provided by qualified pool instructors.
- It is the responsibility of the swimming instructors to decide on what group level each pupil should be in. This is determined at the first week of the swimming term.
- It is the responsibility of the instructors to teach pupils with special educational needs in the group.

Health and Safety

- Staff will follow the guidelines of the School's Health and Safety Policy and Child Safeguarding Statement at all times.

- Pupils are required to behave at all times in a manner that ensures the safety of all involved in swimming lessons. 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 letter providing information about swimming lessons prior to the term. They will also be given information at the September Parent meeting.
- All pupils must have a signed permission slip signed by a parent/guardian in order to participate in swimming lessons.
- Teachers should be present poolside during the lesson in order to supervise the overall group and pupils who may need to use the toilets during the lesson.
- The pool will be provided with information regarding any pupil with a Special Educational Need, physical disability or medical diagnosis that may compromise their safety at swimming.
- 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 pupils at the swimming lessons are expected to communicate any concerns regarding health and safety of the pupils to the swimming pool staff and management.

Implementation and Review

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 7th November 2018.

This policy will be reviewed in the school year 2020/2021.