

St. Brigid's N.S, Policy on Swimming

Aims/Purposes

- To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming skills while they are at St. Brigid's N.S.
- To comply with the requirements of the Curriculum in aquatics.

Procedures Guidelines

- Each pupil will attend a 5/6 week session in a swimming pool annually from 3rd – 6th class
- The swimming pool at The Curragh has been reserved for the duration of these lessons on Tuesdays from 10.00a.m.-11.00a.m.
- Costs incurred by hiring of pool, transfer to and from the pool and payment of instructors necessitate a charge being imposed on each pupil.
- All children attending swimming should wear their school PE tracksuit. Swimming togs may be worn under clothing coming to school. Each child must have a suitable bag to carry his/her swimming gear such as a sports bag or similar type of bag with a secure zip or other fastening.
- Generally, children who do not have special needs will have sufficiently developed personal care skills to manage changing/dressing with ease. Children with special needs and who have been granted access to a Special Needs Assistant (SNA) will be assisted by the SNA.
- The SNA is not required to enter the water with the child but will remain poolside for the duration of the lesson. 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 responsibility of the swimming instructor to decide on what swimming group level each child should be swimming with. This is determined at the first week of the swimming lesson term. The class teacher does not determine what level each child should swim with.
- All items brought to the pool should be clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Each child must have their own togs, towel, hair brush (if necessary) and swim cap, all of which should be marked.
- While in the pool, pupils must endeavour to obey the instructor's orders at all times and comply with the School Code of Behaviour.
- Children are required to comply with the School Code of Behaviour throughout any outing to the swimming pool.
- Teachers will supervise from the viewing deck during the lesson. If requested by swim instructor, teacher will go poolside to assist.

Instructional Arrangements

- The school will organise the swimming programme for all classes from third to sixth

- Instruction in the pool will be provided by swimming instructors who regularly instruct at the Curragh swimming pool and hired by the school. All swimming instructors are Garda Vetted.

Travel and Supervision Arrangements

Pupils will be accompanied by and supervised by their class teacher and SNA, if there is an SNA assigned to a child in the class, on the way to the pool from the school. Pupils will take a bus to and from the pool. Parents from the class attending swimming lessons will be asked to volunteer to help support the class teacher in supervision before and after the swimming lesson. Parents asked to volunteer are Garda Vetted.

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 of our own Health & Safety and Child Safeguarding Statement policies 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 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 standard letter providing information on school swimming before their child starts their swimming term. A consent note, granting permission for a child to participate in swimming must be returned to the class teacher prior to the start of the swimming term.

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.

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.

Deodorants, shampoo, shower gel etc. must not be brought to the pool as the dressing rooms are confined spaces. The Health and Safety Guidelines outlined by the pool authorities will be strictly adhered to.

Success Criteria

Our Swimming Policy will be seen to be working well when:

- The school community are clear about and are committed to the principles that are outlined in this policy and correct procedures are being implemented.
- Positive feedback from members of the school community (teachers, pupils, SNAs, parents) is received.
- Positive feedback from The Curragh Swimming pool is received.

Roles and Responsibility

The Board of Management, Principal, teachers, SNAs have both a role and a responsibility in successfully implementing this policy. The policy will be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis by the policy committee.

Monitoring / Evaluation / Review:

Policy is revised annually or at other times if deemed necessary.

Ratification

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on _____. It has been communicated to all staff and parent body. It is available for the wider school community on our school website.

Signed: Elizabeth Smith

Date: 10th - 9 - 19

