

Reenascreena N.S.

Reenascreena, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork. P85 XE17

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Swimming Policy

Aims

- To comply with the requirements of the PE Curriculum in aquatics.
- To ensure adequate Child Protection safeguards are adhered to and to maintain the dignity of the child in a potentially vulnerable situation.
- To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming skills while they are at Scoil Náisiúnta Rae na Scríne

Procedures Guidelines

- All pupils from 1st class to sixth class will attend 6 weekly sessions at Dunmanway swimming pool during the 3rd term.
- The swimming pool will be reserved for 6 consecutive Tuesdays.
- Costs incurred by hiring of a bus, the pool and payment of instructors necessitate a charge being imposed on each pupil (charge to be decided annually based on numbers attending). Inability to pay will not preclude a pupil from participating fully in swimming classes. The Board of Management subsidises the overall cost to the school – this amount may vary from year to year depending on the number of pupils attending swimming lessons.
- Should a pupil who is in school be unable to participate in the lesson, a note must be supplied by the parent. They will travel on the bus and remain under the supervision of school staff while the lesson proceeds.
- Time is limited afterwards so shampoo and shower gel are not permitted. Children are asked to rinse quickly, dry off and get dressed so that the bus can leave promptly.
- All items of clothing should be clearly labelled to avoid confusion.

Instructional Arrangements

- Colm O'Mahony, Deputy Principal, will organise the swimming programme for all relevant classes by being the liaison with the staff of Dunmanway swimming pool.
- Instruction in the pool will be provided by 3 coaches (or however many the pool staff deem necessary).

Travel and Supervision Arrangements

The bus will collect pupils from school roughly 30 minutes before the lesson starts. They will be supervised at all times by the 2 teachers and an S.N.A.

Ní neart go cur le chéile
There's no strength without unity

Boys and girls each have their own large changing room which is closed to the public in advance of our lesson. Cubicles may be used by individual pupils if required with permission from a teacher. Children are encouraged to wear their swimming costumes under their tracksuits to save time before the lesson begins. Parents are asked to ensure their child is independent with regard to showering and changing their own clothes.

A teacher will stand outside each changing room. They will only enter the dressing room area if the need arises and will not do so without prior notice being given to the children so they can cover up. Once they have changed and showered, children walk out to the deck to meet their instructors so their lesson can begin. When the lesson is over, pupils shower and change into their tracksuits in a timely manner.

While the lesson is in progress, school staff will supervise from the side of the pool. Pupils can see the teachers and S.N.A. at all times and know where to find them if they need to.

Special Educational Needs

An S.N.A. may be required to assist a pupil with additional needs for example helping the child to enter and exit the pool. The S.N.A. will be available at all times during the swimming lesson to take the child from the swimming instructor if he/she was no longer taking part in the lesson. Parents will be consulted in advance of the swimming lesson to decide together the logistics of the pupil participating in these lessons. It may be necessary for the parent to be present to help with changing and showering.

S.N.A.s are not required to enter the water with the child as 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. S.N.As are not required to enter the water with the special needs pupil.

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.

Pupils are required to behave at all times in a manner that ensures the safety of all involved in school swimming – there is to be no running under any circumstances on wet floors and excessive time in the shower is not allowed as other pupils will be awaiting their turn. Use of hairdryers is not permitted as time will not allow for same. Pupils with medium - long hair are encouraged to tie their hair up after the swimming lesson.

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Pupils must obey the instructions of their instructors at all times and comply with the school's Code of Behaviour.

Parents/guardians will receive communication from the school providing information on swimming before their child starts their lessons. As these classes are part of the curriculum and occur annually, consent is implied unless otherwise stated to the school in writing.

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.

Deodorants 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.

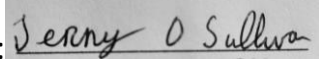
As per school policy, pupils are not permitted to carry mobile phones / cameras / tablets / personal devices etc.


Monitoring / Evaluation / Review:

This policy will be implemented during the school year 2023-2024.

It will be made available to school personnel, published on the school website and will be readily accessible to parents and pupils on request. A copy of this policy will also be made available to the Department and the Patron if requested.

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed by the Board of Management once in every school year prior to the commencement of lessons or in light of experience.

Signed: 
(Chairperson of Board of Management)
Date: 23/4/24

Signed: 
(Principal, Secretary to BOM)
Date: 23/4/24