



**CILL FLAINN**

AG FÁS, AG FOGHLAIM, AG FORBAIRT

## **POLICY ON SWIMMING**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Physical Education Curriculum prescribed by the Department of Education & Skills for primary schools incorporates an aquatics strand. The Board of Management, teaching staff and parent body of Scoil Treasa Naofa co-operate in the provision of aquatics instruction to all the pupils.

### **AIMS/OBJECTIVES**

This policy has the following aims:

- To enable pupils acquire basic swimming skills while attending Scoil Treasa Naofa
- To comply with the requirements of the aquatics strand of the Physical Education Curriculum

### **PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES**

- Pupils attend a six week course of swimming instruction in Tralee Sports Complex during May/June each year. Parents/guardians receive written communication providing information on the swimming course.
- Every pupil from Second Class to Sixth Class is required to participate in this course unless medical/professional advice or parental instruction directs otherwise.
- Pupils who do not attend the course remain in school under the supervision of a member of the teaching staff and complete work assigned by their class teacher.
- Parents bear the cost of the instruction. Parents can either pay the cost up front or spread the cost over the course of the lessons.
- All money is to be paid to the office and given to the school secretary.

## **TRAVEL AND SUPERVISION ARRANGEMENTS**

- Teachers accompany and supervise pupils on the bus journey to and from the pool.
- Teachers are present in the dressing rooms before and after the swimming lesson.
- Teachers remain on the viewing deck during the lesson in order to supervise the overall group and pupils who may need to use the toilets during the lesson.
- Should a pupil be collected by a parent after the swimming lesson, the supervising teacher must be personally informed of such arrangements.

## **RULES AND GUIDELINES RELATING TO SWIMMING LESSON**

- Pupils are not permitted to bring jewellery (stud ear-rings, watches), mobile phones or money to the pool.
- Swimming togs may be worn under tracksuits when coming to school.
- Swimming caps must be worn in the pool at all times.
- Each pupil must carry his/her swimming gear (togs, towel, hair brush and swimming cap) in a bag with a secure zip or other fastening device.
- All of the above items must be clearly labelled with the pupil's name.
- Pupils must bring €1 if they wish to access a secure locker in the changing room.
- Pupils must line up at the entrance to the footbath. When the door is opened, pupils must walk through the footbath and shower before entering the pool.
- The following are not permitted at any time:
  - \*running on the pool deck
  - \*pushing, pulling or offensive behaviour
  - \*jumping/diving into the pool
  - \*ducking or fighting in the water
- Pupils must not enter the water until told to do so by an instructor. Once in the water, they are not allowed to leave without permission.
- Pupils must pay attention to the instructor's orders at all times and comply with the school's Code of Behaviour.
- Pupils should at all times respond to instructions given by lifeguards on duty.
- Pupils are not allowed to go to a shop or use a vending machine.

- Deodorant sprays are not allowed as the dressing rooms are confined spaces.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- Best practice in relation to the supervision, instruction and child protection procedures as outlined by Swim Ireland Appendix A).
- The Safety Guidelines outlined by the pool authorities will be strictly adhered to also (Appendix B).
- Pupils are required to behave at all times in a manner that ensures the safety of all involved in school swimming.
- Where parents/guardians have 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 will be provided on a need-to-know basis to the swimming instructors.

## **MONITORING AND REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed annually prior to the commencement of the aquatics programme of instruction. The effectiveness of its implementation will be monitored during this period.

## **RATIFICATION AND COMMUNICATION**

This policy was circulated and communicated to members of the school community following its ratification by the Board of Management (BoM).

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson

## **Policies**

Using the Swim Ireland Website Policies section you will find a complete library of Swim Ireland child welfare documents for clubs and members explaining what needs to be in place and procedures to follow.

Contact your Club Children's Officer, Regional CWC rep or the NCO ([children@swimireland.ie](mailto:children@swimireland.ie)) for further guidance and advice.

**Further Information: Swim Ireland Child Welfare Policies & Procedures can be found at [www.swimireland.ie](http://www.swimireland.ie) and include**

- **Core Governance Documents**
- **Strategy Documents**
- **Complaints and Disciplinary**
- **Safety Guidelines**
- **Terms of Reference for Subcommittees**