



Our Lady of the Wayside

Policy on Swimming

Aims/Purposes

- To enable and encourage pupils to acquire basic swimming skills while they are at Our Lady of the Wayside National School.
- To comply with the requirements of the Revised Curriculum in aquatics.

Rationale

- The 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 course of swimming instruction in the DLR Loughlinstown swimming pool for each of its students from 1st to 6th class during the school year.

Procedures Guidelines

- Each pupil will attend a 6 week session in a swimming pool annually from 1st - 6th class.
- The swimming pool at Loughlinstown has been reserved for twenty four weeks on Wednesdays from 12 noon to 1 pm.
- Costs incurred by, transport, hiring of pool, and payment of instructors necessitate a charge being imposed on each pupil.
- All children attending the course should wear their tracksuit. Each child must have a suitable bag to carry his/her swimming gear (Sports bag or similar with secure zip or other fastening).
- One-piece swimsuit/tankini is most appropriate. Children must wear swim hats. Swim socks are also advisable.

- All items brought to the pool must be clearly labelled with the child's name. This includes the bag, tracksuit, socks, underwear and shoes.
- Children must have their own togs, towel, hairbrush and swim cap, all of which must also be marked.
- Food and drink are unnecessary as children eat their lunch at 11:50am.

Instructional Arrangements

- The principal and school secretary, will organize the swimming programme for all classes from first to sixth.
- The programme will be circulated to all staff and parents on the school calendar and the beginning of each academic year.
- Parents/guardians will receive a standard letter providing information on school swimming before their child starts their swimming term.
- Swimming coaches will provide instruction in the pool.

Travel and Supervision Arrangements

- Pupils will be accompanied by their class teachers and class SNAs.
- Teachers of all classes should remain on the viewing deck during the lesson in order to supervise the overall group.
- Children will travel to the pool by a private coach hired by the school.
- Pupils must endeavour to obey the instructor's orders at all times and comply with the School Code of Behaviour.
- If for some reason a child needs to be collected from the pool rather than the school, their parent must inform the class teacher in writing and must be at the pool before the bus departs. If the parent is not there the child will return to school with the other children.

Participation

Attendance at this course fulfils the Aquatics Module of the PE Curriculum as laid down by the Department of Education.

We view swimming as part of our curriculum and therefore like all other subjects we expect full participation from all children.

We understand there are occasions when a child cannot attend. Parents must provide a written explanation to the school. The child will be supervised in another classroom and their teacher will assign work for them to complete.

If a parent is experiencing difficulties regarding payment they are advised to speak to the principal in confidence.

Health and Safety

Best practice in relation to the supervision, instruction and child protection procedures 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.

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.

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, shampoos, body washes 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.

Monitoring / Evaluation / Review:

Policy is revised regularly.

This policy was formulated April 2011.

Policy amended November 2014.

Policy amended May 2015