



Swimming Policy for Caherline National School

INTRODUCTION

Caherline National School provides the opportunity for pupils to avail of swimming classes at one of the local swimming pools (2nd to 6th classes). The swimming classes are usually offered as part of a 6-8 week programme. Quality of lessons, facility and the cost of the lessons are taken into account when choosing a venue. The content of the swimming programme includes;

- Developing confidence in the water
- Water safety
- Developing a variety of swimming strokes
- Swimming unaided competently and safely
- Personal hygiene in relation to pool use

Aims/Purposes

- To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming skills while they are at Caherline N.S
- To comply with the requirements of the revised curriculum in Aquatics (P.E.).

BEFORE THE VISIT:

All pupils in the designated classes will be expected to go swimming. Should a pupil have a medical reason for not attending swimming, their parents will be asked to provide a letter from their doctor explaining the reason. Parents/guardians will be fully informed about the swimming by a letter from the organising teacher/s.

Permission slips must be signed and returned, along with payment for lessons, to the school. Caherline School Insurance Cover will be in place to adequately cover all participants for liability claims and or medical expenses. (Please refer to the Insurance Policy for details regarding the extent of cover)

LOCO PARENTIS

During excursions to the swimming pool teachers act in 'loco parentis' which means that they stand in place of a child's parents assuming all their rights and duties.

STAFFING

The swimming trip Leader must be a qualified teacher with previous training/knowledge or experience appropriate to the planned visit. Accompanying staff should have reasonable experience and skills related to the activity to be undertaken, and they will be expected to fulfil a specific role in relation to the objectives of the visit/journey. The children will travel to swimming by bus. The trip leader will carry out a risk assessment of the environment where children assemble to ensure that any staff supervising the children are not placed in a vulnerable position.

SUPERVISION

In the case of a swimming trip this will include ensuring that pupils are appropriately supervised at all times including, when they are using the pool and when they are changing. Hence the issue of appropriate supervision is a critical one for schools. The degree of supervision will have to be 'reasonable' in all the circumstances depending upon the age and any other relevant factors.

CHANGING FOR GAMES/ PE/ SWIMMING

Pupils will be expected to dress and undress for swimming. If a child needs assistance, parents must notify the class teacher in writing, giving their consent to the provision of assistance in the communal areas only. No child will be assisted by the teacher in a cubicle or private space. In such situations where privacy is required the parent/guardian of the child will be asked to travel independently to the swimming pool to assist their child.

Where a parent/guardian has a health concern regarding their child's participation in swimming, they must seek professional advice before the child participates in the swimming lesson. In the best interest of the child, parents/guardians must inform the class teacher/Principal about any health condition that may affect the child in the pool. This information will be held in confidence and disseminated to the swimming instructors on a need to know basis.