

**Caherline National School**

**Swimming Policy**

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| **Revision** | **Date** | **Description** | **Approved** |
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**Introduction**

Caherline National School provides the opportunity for pupils to avail of swimming classes at one of the local swimming pools. 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

Our ASD classes also engage in swimming pool visits for water confidence/life skills.

**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.).
* To gain water confidence

**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 organizing 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)

Pupils will be informed of the necessity to stay with their class at all times. The will be instructed about the procedures for changing etc. before their first visit. Prior to leaving for the swimming, a role call will be taken and all pupils in attendance will be recorded.

**During the visit:**

After entering the building, the pupils will be informed of the meeting point after swimming. They will be shown where they need to be once they are finished swimming and dressed, after swimming.

**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.

**Supervision**

In the case of a swimming trip school staff (along with pool staff) will play a role in ensuring that pupils are appropriately supervised at all times including when they are using the pool and when they are changing.

**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.

Once the swimming is over, all children will change for return to school. Before leaving the building of the swimming pool, a rollcall will be taken by each class teacher to ensure all children are present.

**ASD classes swimming**

The ASD classes will engage in swimming pool visits for recreational and sensory purposes, as well as gaining confidence in the water and working on life skills. The staff engage in support/care needs where appropriate and necessary. This will always be carried out in a communal area and with another staff member present. Pupils will be physically supported in the water where necessary. Where possible independence is encouraged and the teaching of the life skills of dressing and undressing.

**After the visit**

Pupils will return to the school. Once pupils have disembarked the bus, a staff member will check each bus to ensure that there are no items left behind on the bus by the pupils. Pupils will return to their classroom for the rest of their school day.

**Policy Ratification**

Compiled in consultation with teachers, SNAs, pupils (Student Council) parents/guardians (email survey).