

Physical Education Policy
Aquatics Policy Statement
For Slieveardagh NS

Rationale

We at our School recognise the importance of Aquatics in our school's physical education programme. Our aquatics programme is concerned with gaining competence and confidence, near, in, under and on water. It includes not only the learning of swimming strokes but the provision of opportunities for enjoyment of water play and the development of water safety. This policy is devised in line with our code of behaviour, anti bullying policy and child protection guidelines(2017)

Aims & Objectives

- To develop a positive attitude to aquatics
- To teach children basic rules of water safety and pool etiquette
- To enable children to enter and exit the water safely and confidently
- To develop each child's confidence near, on, under and in water
- To encourage children to be involved in water based activities
- To develop a selection of swimming strokes in line with each individuals potential

Funding

The cost of pool hire, transport and swimming instructions shall be borne by the parents of the children involved. Every child will have access to her class swimming lessons.

Pool

Our school uses Clonmel Swimming Pool. The pool is managed by the pool manager and has one pool attendant/lifeguard on duty at all sessions. The pool is a 45 minutes drive from the school.

Duration of programme and times

The Secretary of our school has booked Clonmel swimming pool in the last term of the school year commencing on May 12th for 6 sessions

Supervision and Instructor/Pupil ratio

The responsibility for supervising the children rests with the class teacher at all times. Even under the swimming instructor's direction, the children remain the responsibility of the class teacher. The instructor to pupil ratio shall be approx. 1:15 during the aquatics lesson. The attending class teacher/s or Special Needs Assistant will supervise the changing rooms. When every child is changed and ready they must queue at the door and await the teacher's instructions. Pupils who cannot partake in the aquatics lesson must go the pool.

Transport to pool

Each class will be bused to and from the pool under the supervision of the class teacher. A head count should be undertaken before leaving the school and before leaving the pool.

Appropriate clothing and equipment

On the day they go to the pool each child must wear the school tracksuit to school and bring the required swimming gear (towel, swim suit, swimming hat, goggles/arm bands is required). Swimming hats are compulsory in the pool. Normal school rules regarding jewellery apply. The use of aerosols deodorants is prohibited in line with the school's Health & Safety Policy.

Assessment

The children are assessed for aquatics. They are tested for swim awards by the swimming instructors at the end of each year/session.

Inclusion & differentiation

Our school respects the rights of every pupil to have access to and involve herself/himself in all activities including aquatics to his/her full potential. Every effort will be made to adapt lessons to facilitate the inclusion of every pupil. The aquatics lessons themselves will sometimes require the division of pupils into groups to offer each individual opportunities to develop his/her full potential in aquatics:

1. Beginners
2. Improvers
3. Competent swimmers

School and pool rules

- The normal school rules of our school apply during aquatics lessons
- Walk at all times – no running
- Correct clothing must be worn
- Change quickly and quietly and line up at door ready to enter poolside
- Only enter poolside at teacher's instruction using showers on the way
- At poolside children stand at side of the pool and wait for instructions to enter the pool
- Listen to and follow the instructions of the lifeguards
- A blown whistle means "stop, look, listen"
- No bombing, diving, fighting, pulling, dragging or ducking allowed
- Competent swimmers only allowed in deep end
- Do not enter or exit the pool without permission.

Roles & Responsibilities

Role of Class Teacher

- To supervise all aquatic activities in which their class is involved.
- To inform swimming instructors of individual needs, illnesses or medical conditions of their pupils.
- To ensure that children not attending the pool are adequately supervised in school.
- To teach non-swimming elements of the aquatics programme.

Role of Swimming Instructors

- To instruct pupils in the aquatics programme
- To assess pupils for swim awards.

Role of parents

- Parents are requested to encourage their children to develop water confidence and aquatic competence.
- Parents pay fees to fund the price of the pool; transport and the fees charged by the swimming instructors.
- Parents should supply a note for the class teacher if their child can't swim on a particular day. If parents can't let their child swim at all, a relevant doctor's letter/medical cert should be given to the class teacher.
- Parents of junior infants and senior infants are encouraged to attend to help with dressing and undressing. We encourage children from 1st class to 6th class to be able to dress themselves. Teachers may assist in other ways but never in the dressing or undressing of a pupil.

Aquatics Curriculum

- Hygiene
- Water safety
- Entry to and exit from the water
- Buoyancy and propulsion
- Stroke development
- Water-based ball games
- Understanding and appreciation of aquatics
- Many parts of the aquatics programme are covered by S.P.H.E.

Accident Procedures

- In the event of an accident occurring at the pool or on the way to or from the pool, the relevant accident report form should be filled in, both at the pool and in the accident in school, on return. Parents should be informed of the incident and the action taken.

Emergency Action Plan

- In the event of an emergency situation the teacher is responsible for ensuring that the ambulance is called and school is immediately informed. Teachers will carry with them contact details of their class and will contact the child's parents.
- If necessary the senior teacher will travel in the ambulance and the other teacher will assume responsibility for both classes involved ensuring their safe return to the school.

Review of Policy

The policy was drafted January 2015.

Reviewd by BOM on

Signed

Next review