



POLICY ON SWIMMING

Aims/Purposes

- To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming skills while they are at Scoil Áine Naofa.
- To comply with the requirements of the Revised Curriculum in aquatics.

Procedures Guidelines

- Each pupil will attend a 5/6 week session in a swimming pool annually from 3rd – 6th class
- The swimming pool at Swan Leisure Centre, Gort will be reserved on a yearly basis in the first term.
- Costs incurred by hiring of pool, and payment of instructors necessitate a charge of €40 approximately being imposed on each pupil. Inability to pay will not preclude a pupil from participating fully in swimming classes. Parents can pay in weekly installments, monthly installments or in full.
- If any parent is struggling to make payments, they can discuss the matter privately with the principal.

Instructional Arrangements

- The school secretary will organize the swimming programme for all classes from third to sixth.
- Instructions in the pool will be provided by the fully qualified instructor within the leisure center.

Travel and Supervision Arrangements

Pupils will travel by bus to and from the pool. Pupils will be accompanied by a Special Education Teacher and their class teacher to and from the school and within all areas of the pool. An SNA will also assist in this supervision, where applicable. Teachers will not enter changing rooms, but will monitor changing and behavior within the pool and changing areas.

Health and Safety

Best practice in relation to the supervision, instruction and child protection procedures as outlined by the Irish Sports Council, Swim Ireland and the National Safety Council 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.

Where a parent/guardian has 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 provided on a need to know basis to the swimming instructors.


Deodorants 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.


As aquatics is an integral part of the P.E curriculum, if a child is unable to attend the 6 weeks scheduled swimming lessons, a medical note must be provided stating the child is unfit to attend or this must be agreed prior to the lessons with the school principal, under exceptional circumstances.

Monitoring / Evaluation / Review:

Policy is revised annually or at other times if deemed necessary.

This policy was drafted by staff in January 2024 and ratified by the BOM at a meeting on 17th January 2024 and will be reviewed as necessary.


Chairperson 17/1/24


Principal 17/1/24