



Toonagh National School

Swimming Policy

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 swimming pool lessons for pupils 3rd – 6th during the school year.

Swimming is a compulsory facet of the Primary School Curriculum. Attendance at this course fulfils the Aquatics Strand of the PE Curriculum as laid down by the Department of Education. Parents defray the cost of the course.

Aims/Purposes:

- To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming skills while they are at Toonagh NS.
- To comply with the requirements of the PE Curriculum in aquatics.

Procedures Guidelines:

- Normally the course is a 6-week session in a swimming pool annually for 3rd – 6th Class.
- The swimming pool at Active Leisure Complex Ennis is reserved from 1.00pm – 2.00pm.
- Attendance at this course fulfils the Aquatics Strand of the PE Curriculum as laid down by the Department of Education and parents defray the cost of the course and also that of the transport to and from the pool. If a parent is unable to do this, the board will offer to defray the cost for them. Inability to pay will not preclude a pupil from participating in swimming classes.
- All children are encouraged to participate in aquatics lessons as part of the Primary School Curriculum. A pupil who is unable to attend aquatics for a medical or other reason should provide a note, written and signed by the parent/guardian. A medical cert will be required if there is a medical condition which precludes the child from swimming on a long-term basis.
- Arrangements for supervision of a pupil not taking part in a swimming lesson will be made on a case by case basis. Should a child be unable to attend one lesson due to ill health or any other reason, a letter must be provided stating the reason and he/she may travel with the class to the pool and remain under the supervision of the class teacher.

- Pupils will be accompanied by and supervised by a class teacher on the way to the pool from the school. Pupils will travel by bus to the pool and the class teacher will provide supervision before and after the swimming lesson.
- All children attending swimming should wear their school tracksuit. (Swimming togs may be worn under tracksuits coming to school). Each child must have a suitable bag to carry his/her swimming gear.
- All items brought to the pool must be clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Each child must have their swimming togs, towel, hair brush and swimming hat, all of which must also be marked.
- In the event of swimming gear being forgotten it is customary for the teachers to send the pupil to the office to phone home.
- While in the pool, pupils must endeavour to obey the instructors' orders at all times.
- Teachers will remain on the viewing deck during the lesson in order to supervise the overall group.
- Teachers have a supervisory role only, outside the pool and in the changing area.

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. Staff will follow the guidelines of our own Health & Safety and Child Protection procedures at all times.
- Pupils are required to behave at all times in a manner that ensures the safety of all involved in school swimming. Pupils must endeavour to obey the instructor's orders at all times.
- Parents/guardians will receive a standard letter providing information on school swimming before their child starts their swimming term.
- Where a parent/guardian has a health concern regarding their child's participation in swimming, professional advice should be sought and a medical certificate should be provided explaining why the child may not attend swimming lessons.
- The pool will be provided with information regarding any child with an Additional Educational Need, physical disability or medical diagnosis that may compromise their safety at swimming.

Implementation and Review:

This Policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management, as deemed necessary and in line with the school development plan.

Ratification:

This Policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Toonagh National School at its meeting on 25/5/22.

Signed: Marie Flattery
(Chairperson, Board of Management)
Jason R. Byrnes
(Principal)

Date: 25/5/22.