

Swimming Policy



SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

St Catharine's Primary School provides an inclusive Catholic education, expressing love of and trust in Jesus. We empower individuals to

“Let Their Light Shine”

(Matthew 5:16) through courage, compassion and community.

Approved by:	Full Governing Body
Operational review by:	Joanne Welch (Headteacher)
Date of meeting:	18 October 2023
Next review due:	

Contents

Why we provide swimming lessons at St Catharine's Primary School	3
How swimming will be organised at St Catharine's Primary School	3
Roles and responsibilities	3
Duty of care.....	4
Behaviour	5
Attendance	5
Swimming Kit	5
Appendix 1	5

Why we provide swimming lessons at St Catharine's Primary School

- To meet the requirements of the National Curriculum;

All schools must provide swimming instruction either in key stage 1 or key stage 2. Pupils should be taught to:

- swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres
- use a range of strokes effectively [for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke]
- perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations
- To nurture the personal and social development of children and their health and well-being
- To promote a valuable life skill

How swimming will be organised at St Catharine's Primary School

Swimming lessons are part of the curriculum and so the timetabling of lessons for pupils at St Catharine's Primary School will be targeted at Key Stage 2 pupils who yet are unable to swim 25m.

All other Key Stage 2 pupils who have achieved 25m competency will also join the class if staffing and timetable commitments permit. Lessons may also extend to Key Stage 1 pupils in Y2, if appropriate.

Swimming lessons last approximately 30 minutes and are in place of a PE session.

All lessons will be undertaken by an ASA qualified swimming instructor with lifeguards in attendance.

Roles and responsibilities

The role of the member of staff in charge:

- The welfare of children in changing room;
- Overall maintenance of good discipline;
- Counting children into and out of the building and recording these numbers so that they are visible;
- Marking the attendance register;
- Ensuring the water safety of all children and maintain a safe working environment;
- Confirm attendance levels and any relevant medical information with the swimming instructors;
- Make arrangements to be made about the provision for children with special needs and confirm risk assessment;
- Adhere to health and safety requirements;

The role of adult helpers:

- The welfare of specific children in changing room. Supervision and oversight of designated child, ensuring the child understands and follows instructions.
- Consult with the member of staff in charge and agree arrangements to be made about the provision for children with special needs and confirm risk assessment.
- Adhere to health and safety requirements.

The role of the PE subject leader:

- To undertake a risk assessment of the school's swimming provision and monitor its implementation;
- To ensure that the law relating to SEND is followed whereby schools take all reasonable steps to avoid discriminating against pupils on the grounds of their disability.
- To maintain and keep a record of the pupils' swimming achievements inside and outside of school.
- To report to the governing body on the impact of the school's swimming provision.
- Ensure the recommended teacher ratios are adhered to. (See Appendix 1)
- To ensure annual briefing sessions take place with all staff involved with swimming provision.

The swimming instructor will:

- Possess DBS clearance.
- Have full ASA Teachers Award or an STA equivalent as well as a life-saving award recognised by Health and Safety Unit.
- Possess a relevant First Aid certificate.
- Make sure all children and teachers know safety drills.
- Have all equipment ready and in the correct place in the teaching area.
- Consult with the accompanying member of staff and agree arrangements to be made about the provision for children with special needs and confirm risk assessment.
- Ensure children know the procedure for the start/end of lesson, their grouping and assigned area of pool and teacher.
- To assess and record pupil progress.
- Organise classes according to:
- Class numbers.
- Pupil ability.
- Numbers of teachers/adult helpers

Duty of care

As Advised in Gloucestershire School Swimming and Water Safety Guidelines

- At all times during school swimming lessons, the school retains duty of care for its pupils.
- Where lessons take place at a centre other than the school site, the school is unable to delegate any aspect of their duty of care
- Where swimming teaching staff are used, they are responsible for delivering safe and effective teaching but do not have overall duty of care for the pupils, this remains with the school staff
- The swimming teaching staff, or lifeguards may take responsibility for effecting a rescue assisted by the school swimming staff or assistant school staff if required but the responsibility for the pupils remains with the school
- Where assistant school staff attend the swimming sessions but do not take part in the teaching, they should remain on the poolside and assist if required. It is an expectation that at least one member of school staff remains on the poolside throughout the lesson. Even where this fails to happen, the duty of care remains with the school
- Roles and responsibilities of each staff member (centre or school) should be communicated and understood to ensure effective handling of emergency situations. (See Roles and Responsibilities on page 14)

- Where a school hires a pool to operate its swimming lessons, the manager of the pool is responsible for ensuring that the facility, in and out of the pool is safe to enter and use. This would be the same if a school chose to use the pool at a nearby school

Behaviour

The swimming pool is a place of work and should be treated as a classroom with the same rules regarding behaviour.

Attendance

All parents must ensure that their children attend all allocated lessons. As swimming is a statutory part of the National Curriculum, parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from this statutory element of the National Curriculum unless the child has an EHCP (Education Health Care Plan).

Older children are encouraged to be independent in terms of organising their swimming kits. Children who forget their swimming kits or cannot participate in the lesson for any reason will be required to attend and observe the lessons from the side of the pool. This is in line with the other aspects of the PE curriculum delivery.

Parents of children returning from an illness that would prevent them from swimming for a brief period must provide the school with medical evidence of the illness in order that they may be excused from the lesson.

Should a child not be able to swim for an extended period, a doctor's letter must be provided.

Swimming Kit

Girls should wear a one-piece swimsuit and boys should wear swimming trunks (not baggy 'board shorts').

All children should wear a swim hat, with long hair tied up. Provision must be made for alternative attire when a request is made linked with protected characteristics.

Appendix 1

Staff-to-pupil ratios in swimming lessons

Type/ability of swimmers	Dependent on risk assessment but should not exceed
Non-swimmers, beginners, and include nervous participants	12:1
Improvers and/or mixed ability groups, where all pupils can swim at least 10 metres on their front and back unaided	20:1
Competent swimmers	20:1

Swimmers with disabilities

8:1 with 1:1 support in the water where required

As Advised in Gloucestershire School Swimming and Water Safety Guidelines

The Association for Physical Education (afPE), the subject association for PE, provides guidance to schools, colleges and other organisations in respect of safe practice in PE and school sport. Unless this guidance is superseded by local policy and procedure from local authorities, governors or academy sponsors, many schools use the guidance to support them. The Association has always maintained that it is not helpful to provide ratios for any PE or sport activities, and recommends that staff to pupil ratios should be decided by completing risk assessments specific to the make-up and needs of a group, and the items identified in the Normal Operating Procedures (NOP) of the pool. This approach is advocated here. However, in response to demand for further guidance, figures are provided below, based on those supported by the ASA.