

Scoil Naomh Mhuire NS
Staplestown, Donadea, Co. Kildare

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 has arranged for swimming lessons for each of its students from 1st to 4th class during the school year.
- Swimming is a compulsory facet of the Primary School Curriculum. Attendance at this course fulfils the Aquatics Module 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 Scoil Naomh Mhuire Staplestown.
- To comply with the requirements of the Revised Curriculum in Aquatics.

Procedures Guidelines:

- Each pupil will attend 5-10 swimming lessons annually from 1st class to 4th class.
- K Leisure in Naas has been reserved for nine weeks (The pool location is subject to change from year to year.)
- Costs incurred by hiring of pool, payment of instructors and payment of bus for transport, necessitate a charge being imposed on each pupil.
- Inability to pay will not preclude a pupil from participating fully in swimming classes.
- A pupil who needs to opt out of a swimming class for a medical or other reason should provide a note of excuse, written and signed by the parent.
- A medical cert will be required if there is a medical condition which precludes the child from swimming on a long-term basis.
- All children attending the course should wear their tracksuit. Swimming togs may be worn under tracksuits coming to school.
- Each child must have a suitable bag to carry his/her swimming gear such as a sports bag or similar type of bag with a secure zip or other fastening.
- All items brought to the pool must be clearly labelled with the child's name. This includes the bag, tracksuit, socks, underwear and shoes.
- Each child must have their own togs, towel, hairbrush and swim cap (waterproof if possible), all of which must also be marked.
- While in the pool, pupils must obey the instructor's orders at all times and comply with the School Behaviour policy and School Tour policy.
- Teachers of all classes should remain on the viewing deck during the lesson in order to supervise the overall group and pupils who may need to use the toilets during the lesson.
- In the event of swimming gear being forgotten we will arrange for a call home to be made.

Instructional Arrangements:

- A swimming programme for classes from first to fourth is organised by the Deputy Principal.
- Parents are notified of the swimming time-table as soon all arrangements have been confirmed
- Instruction in the pool will be provided by K Leisure's panel of qualified instructors who are Garda vetted.

Travel and Supervision Arrangements:

- Pupils will be accompanied by and supervised by class teacher on the way to and from the pool and the school.
- Teachers will supervise changing rooms by standing outside changing rooms.
- SNA will give assistance to SEN pupils as required.
- The class teachers and SNA (if applicable) will provide supervision before and after the swimming lessons.
- Only with written permission signed by the parents/guardians, and agreed with the BOM will pupils be permitted to miss their swimming lessons.
- All children in the above classes, regardless of taking part in lessons or not, will attend the pool, unless alternative arrangements can be made by parents/guardians.
- The school cannot provide alternative supervision to children who do not partake in lessons.

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.
- 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 go for swimming lessons.
- 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.
- Deodorant or other sprays 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.

Monitoring / Evaluation / Review:

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

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on March 11th, 2019

Signed: Mary McDowell

Principal

Date: March 11th, 2019

Signed: Maeve Caldwell

Date: March 11th, 2019

Date of next review: October 2021