

*Scoil Náisiúnta Naomh Feichín
An Chrois
Clár Chlainne Mhuiris
Co. Mhaigh Eo*

*Saint Feichín's National School
Cross
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Swimming Policy

Aims:

- To comply with the requirements of the Revised Curriculum in aquatics.
- To ensure child protection and the dignity of children in a vulnerable situation.
- To provide clarity of rules and responsibilities.

Procedures and Guidelines:

- 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 a course of swimming instruction in Claremorris Leisure Centre for pupils from second – sixth class during the school year.
- Attendance at this course fulfils the Aquatics Module 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.
- Should a child be unable to attend the course, due to ill health or any other reason, he/she will remain at school under the supervision of another teacher. A note should be provided by parents.
- All children attending swimming should wear clothing which they can manage themselves. Swimming togs may be worn under clothing 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.
- Generally, children who do not have special needs will have sufficiently developed personal care skills to manage changing/dressing with ease. Children with special

needs who have been granted access to a Special Needs Assistant (SNA) can be assisted by the SNA if that pupil has care needs.

- The SNA is not required to enter the water with the child. It is the responsibility of the instructor, be it an individual or group instructor to teach the special needs pupil their swimming lessons.
- The school will have three adults present to supervise the pupils before and after the swimming lesson.
- The school will request the use of the cubicles for changing in Claremorris Leisure Centre. Pupils are not permitted to share cubicles with the exception of certain siblings.
- Each child must have their own togs, towel, hair brush (if necessary) and swim cap, all of which should be labeled with the child's name.
- Spray deodorants are not permitted.
- Hairdryers are not permitted.
- Pupils will travel by bus to and from the pool and they will be supervised by the teachers and SNA (if applicable).
- Teachers/SNAs will provide supervision before and after the swimming lesson.

Instructional Arrangements:

- The school will organise the swimming programme for all classes from second to sixth class.
- Instruction in the pool will be provided by qualified instructors.
- It is the responsibility of the swimming instructor to decide on what swimming group level each child should be swimming with. This is determined at the first week of the swimming lesson term. The class teacher/parent does not determine what level each child should swim with.

Health and Safety:

- Staff will follow the guidelines of our own Health & Safety and Child Safeguarding Statement policies 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 instructors and teachers orders at all times and comply with the School Code of Behaviour.
- Parents/guardians will receive a standard letter providing information on school swimming before their child starts their swimming term.
- Teachers should remain on the viewing deck during the lesson in order to supervise the overall group.
- The pool will be provided with information regarding any child with a Special Educational Need, physical disability or medical diagnosis that may compromise their safety at swimming e.g. epilepsy, diabetes.
- If any injury or accident occurs at the pool the lifeguard on duty will attend to the injury.
- Any incident reports completed by the swimming pool staff will be copied and brought back to the school.
- Staff from the school who are supervising swimming are expected to communicate any concerns regarding the health and safety of the pupils to the swimming pool staff and the school management.
- Staff from the school who are supervising swimming are expected to communicate any child protection concerns to the Designated Liaison Person.
- The permission from parents to the school to let children go swimming is covered in the consent section of the school enrolment form.

Roles and Responsibility:

The Board of Management, principal, teachers and SNAs have both a role and a responsibility in successfully implementing this policy. The policy will be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis by school management.

Review and Ratification:

This policy was ratified at a meeting of the Board of Management on _____
and it will be reviewed in two years time.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Management:

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairperson