

# Swimming Policy Threen National School

## Aims/Purposes

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

## 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 a block course of swimming instruction in a swimming pool for each of its students every second year, where feasible.

## Procedures /Guidelines

- Each pupil will attend a block of session in a swimming pool every second year from Jun. Inf. – 6<sup>th</sup> class, where feasible
- 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. Costs incurred by hiring of pool, transport to and from pool and payment of instructors necessitate a charge being imposed on each pupil.
- All children are encouraged to participate in aquatics lessons as part of the National Curriculum. Should a child be unable to attend aquatics, due to a medical condition, a letter must be written to the Board of Management requesting exemption. Arrangements for supervision in this instance 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 given to the principal and he/she will 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/ school staff on the way to the pool from the school. Pupils will travel by coach to the pool and the class teacher/ school staff will provide supervision before and after the swimming lesson.
- Pupils attending the course at any given time will be from a combination of both a senior and junior classes
- All children attending the course should wear their school uniform. (Swimming togs may be worn under tracksuits coming to school). Each child must have a suitable bag to carry his/her swimming gear (Sports bag or similar with 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 etc.
- Each child must have their own togs (without pockets), towel, hair brush and swim cap, all of which must also be marked.
- 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 and who have been granted access to a Special Needs Assistant (SNA) will be assisted by the SNA.
- 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 does not determine what level each child should swim with.

- No toiletries (e.g. shampoo, shower gel, deodorant) are permitted. Hairdryers are not permitted.
- While in the pool, pupils must endeavour to obey the instructor's orders at all times and comply with the School Code of Behaviour and the Swimming Pool Code of Behaviour.

### 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 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 instructor's orders at all times and comply with the School Code of Behaviour and Swimming Pool Code of Behaviour.
- Parents/guardians will receive a standard letter providing information on school swimming before their child starts their swimming term.
- 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.
- 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, eg. Epilepsy.
- 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.

### Monitoring / Evaluation / Review:

This policy was formulated in September 2022. Policy will be revised regularly.

Ratified by Board of Management on 21/10/2022.

Signed Katrine Callaghan

(Chairperson)

Aine O'Connor

(Principal)