

# *Scoil Naomh Eoin*

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**Principal:** Stephen Donovan

**Deputy Principal:** Anne T. Hillery

## **Swimming Policy**

### **Aims:**

- To enable pupils of Scoil Naomh Eoin to acquire basic swimming skills.
- To comply with the requirements of the Physical Education Curriculum Aquatics strand.
- To provide clarity of rules, roles and responsibilities

### **Rationale:**

The school has regard to both the physical and mental development of each of its pupils. Being able to swim is an invaluable life skill that will support the child's safety around water throughout their lifetime. Believing that a healthy body promotes a healthy mind, the school arranges for a 6 week course of swimming instruction (depending on the school calendar and pool availability) in Portarlinton Leisure Centre for pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class.

### **Swimming Lessons: Guidelines**

- Each pupil will attend a term of swimming lessons annually in 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class.
- The swimming pool is reserved for forty-five minutes once a week for each class level during the swimming course.
- 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.
- Inability to pay will not preclude a pupil from participating fully in swimming lessons.
- It is compulsory for all children 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 from the child's doctor must be sent to the school requesting exemption and stating the reason why.
- Should a child be unable to attend one lesson due to ill health or any other reason, a note must be given to the class teacher or email sent to [office@naomheoin.ie](mailto:office@naomheoin.ie) stating the reason(s).
- Children not participating in lessons will be supervised in another classroom until their teacher returns from the swimming lesson.
- Pupils from both classes at each level attend the term's lessons together and are accompanied by and supervised by both class teachers plus a Special Needs Assistant where one has been assigned to assist a pupil in the class.

- Pupils will travel by bus to the pool and the class teachers will provide supervision before and after the swimming lesson.
- One teacher remains pool side at all times during the lesson and supervises children going to the toilets.
- Swim teachers are responsible for allocating the children to the different swimming groups based on assessed swimming ability.
- It is suggested that swimming togs be worn under school tracksuits coming to school to save time.
- Each child must have a suitable bag to carry their swimming gear (Sports bag or similar with secure zip or other fastening). Child should bring a smaller waterproof bag for wet clothes.
- All arm bands must be inflated at home and put into the swimming bag.
- Time is limited so no toiletries are permitted.
- There is not enough time to fully dry children's hair with a hair dryer. Therefore a silicone hat is recommended to be worn (as per policy of swimming pool) and children with long hair should wear their hair tied up for the day.
- Deodorants/Aerosols must not be brought to the pool as the dressing rooms are confined spaces and they leave a strong smell.
- All items brought to the pool should be clearly labelled with the child's name. The school/pool cannot take responsibility for lost items.
- Mobile phones and cameras are forbidden to be used in the swimming pool premises.

### **Instructional Arrangements:**

Instruction in the pool will be provided by qualified pool instructors who are Garda Vetted by the Leisure Centre.

### **Children with Additional Needs:**

The SNA's are required to assist the Special Needs pupils to undress and dress before and after swimming lessons under the supervision of the class teacher. They should also assist the child to enter and exit the pool if required and be available at all times during the swimming lesson to take the child from the swimming instructor if they are no longer participating in the lesson. The SNA's are not required to enter the water with the child. They do not have sufficient training to do so.

It is the responsibility of the instructor, be it an individual or group instructor to teach all pupils during their swimming lessons. It is the decision of the swimming pool whether or not the pupil is capable of being in a group swimming situation or an individual one. This depends on the ability of the individual child in the water. If the child is required to have an individual instructor the cost is incurred by the parent/guardian. This decision may be reached before or after the child's first lesson in the pool.

In relation to school tours, where classes are visiting a swimming pool or a water area e.g. an adventure park, the same procedures apply in coherence with School Tour Policy. SNA's are not required to enter the water with the special needs pupil. If the parent/guardian feels that their child needs individual assistance in the water, a staff member from the given establishment may be employed and the cost of same is incurred by the parent/guardian of the child.

### **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 adhere to the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023). Class teachers (plus SNA where applicable) will supervise the children in the dressing room.

Pupils are required to behave at all times in a manner that ensures the safety of all involved in school swimming. Pupils must obey the instructor's orders at all times and comply with the school's Code of Behaviour Policy and the pool's Health and Safety Guidelines.

Where a parent/guardian has a health concern regarding their child's participation in swimming, professional advice must be sought before the child participates in the swimming lesson.

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.

### **Implementation and Review:**

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management every three years.

Signed: Deirdre Doyle (Chairperson)

Date: 13/12/23