



Special School for Children with Autism and Complex Needs

## Swimming Policy

### Introduction

The provision of swimming classes as part of our Physical Education Programme will be examined by the principal and deputy principal on an annual basis. The Board acknowledges that, while part of the Primary School P.E. curriculum, a swimming programme may not be appropriate for every pupil in the school. Students who remain behind must be supervised by a class teacher and a sufficient ratio of SNAs.

### Aims/Purposes

- To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming skills while they are at school.
- To comply with the requirements of the revised curriculum in Aquatics
- To further develop in the students a sense of belonging in the wider community
- To facilitate the learning of appropriate socialisation skills
- To facilitate the learning of appropriate self-care skills, such as washing and dressing

### Procedures/Guidelines

- Each participating pupil will attend a minimum 6-week session in a swimming pool on an annual basis.
- The swimming pool be block-booked in advance by the school secretary.
- Swimming will usually take place in the final term of the school year.
- Parents/Guardians will be required to complete a permission slip, granting consent for their child to participate in the swimming programme. This must be returned to the class teacher prior to commencement of the swimming programme. Pupils will not be allowed to attend swimming without this consent.
- Any parent/guardian who has a health concern regarding their child's participation in swimming must seek professional/medical advice prior to their child attending swimming with the school and must notify the school of their concern and the medical advice obtained.
- It is the duty of the parents/guardians to fully inform the class teacher and principal of any health condition that may affect their child in the pool. This information will remain confidential except where it is deemed necessary to inform swimming instructors/staff members accompanying a child in the pool.
- Instruction and lifesaving is provided by the swimming pool.
- The deputy principal, in consultation with the principal, will organise the swimming rota on a weekly basis. This rota will clearly outline each staff member's responsibility for a particular student or group of students, including those remaining behind on campus. This rota will specify the staff members who will accompany the pupils in the pool and those designated to assist with dressing.



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- Quotes for transport to and from the swimming pool will be reviewed annually and the most competitive price sought.
- The price per pupil will depend on the price quoted by both the pool and transport and may vary from year to year.
- The Board will apply, where available, for South Dublin County Council's grants to facilitate the running of a swimming programme. This is in an effort to keep costs at a minimum for parents.

### **Travel and Supervision Arrangements**

Pupils will be accompanied and supervised by at least one class teacher and allocated SNAs at all times. Transport will be provided on a hired bus service only.

### **Health and Safety**

The rules and policies of the leisure centre/swimming pool will be strictly adhered to at all times.

Abacas acknowledges that each of our pupils have a diagnosis of autism and at times may exhibit behaviour that could be considered challenging. While conscious of this, pupils are required to behave at all times in a manner that does not impact on the health and safety of themselves or others (pupils, school staff, pool staff or members of the public). If the principal, deputy principal, BCBA or class teacher agree that, in the interest of health and safety, a pupil should not attend swimming lessons or cease attending swimming lessons, parents will be contacted and alternative arrangements put in place.

### **Changing Rooms**

The leisure centre/swimming pool will include communal changing areas with individual cubicles. School staff should ensure, where possible, that all pupils change in one area of the changing facilities, i.e. a specific corridor of cubicles. This facilitates adequate supervision of our pupils while ensuring privacy. Pupils should be as independent as possible in their dressing. Staff will be aware of pupils who may require additional assistance. All intimate care and child safeguarding procedures will be strictly adhered to. Please see intimate care/toileting policy as well as Child Safeguarding Statement



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### **Related policies**

Best practice in relation to the supervision, instruction and child safeguarding procedures will be adhered to at all times. The relevant policies include:

- Child Safeguarding Statement
- Intimate Care Policy
- Stay Safe Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Code of Behaviour

### **Risk assessment**

In line with our health and safety policy, a risk assessment will be carried out prior to the commencement of the swimming programme each year. This will include an assessment of the following areas:

- Transportation to and from the pool
- Pool facilities
- The individual needs of the pupils participating in the swimming programme
- The measures required to mitigate the risks associated with the above, e.g. staff ratios, dressing arrangements, etc.

### **Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually or as deemed necessary. This policy was reviewed and ratified on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Chairperson, Board of Management*