



Swimming Policy

Reviewed and Updated:

February 2018

Vision and Mission

Our vision is that every single member of our community will love, learn and grow together. This is achieved by:

- Celebrating what we are good at
- Challenging ourselves and doing our very best in our work
- Loving and respecting ourselves and each other
- Knowing that we are loved for being just how God made us
- Accepting that everyone is special



Introduction and Aims

At the heart of our approach to Physical Education at St John Fisher is a belief that every child is capable of achieving in Physical Education, and should be given the very best opportunity to do so. We believe that a good grounding and understanding of the fundamentals, agility, balance and coordination is essential for success in life and that every child is entitled to this.

In line with the National Curriculum, our aims in Physical Education are to ensure that children:

- become fluent in the fundamentals of Physical education, including agility, balance and coordination, so that pupils can access a variety of skills and begin to apply them to game/competitive situations.
- succeed and excel in competitive sport and other physically-demanding activities.
- become physically confident in a way which supports their health and fitness and lead healthy lifestyles.
- Opportunities to compete in sport and other activities build character and help to embed values such as fairness and respect.

Why we provide swimming lessons at St John Fisher Primary School.

To meet the requirements of the National Curriculum; All schools must provide swimming instruction either in key stage 1 or key stage 2. In particular, pupils should be taught to:

- swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres
- use a range of strokes effectively [for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke]
- perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations
- To develop the personal and social development of children and their health and well-being;
- To promote a valuable life skill



How we will organise swimming at St John Fisher Primary School

Swimming at St John Fisher Primary School is time tabled in the Autumn term for all Year 3 pupil, plus any pupil in Year 4 who is unable to swim 25m.

Children, therefore, have the opportunity to develop and improve their swimming throughout the primary phase. Swimming lessons last approximately 30 minutes and count as one of the classes' weekly PE lesson. Children are transported to the Springs Leisure Centre by coach. These coaches are all fitted with 3 point seatbelts.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The role of the member of staff in charge:

- The welfare of children in changing room;
- Overall maintenance of good discipline;
- Counting children into and out of the building and recording these numbers so that they are visible;
- Marking the attendance register;
- Ensuring the water safety of all children and maintain a safe working environment;
- confirm attendance levels and any relevant medical information with the swimming instructors;
- Make arrangements to be made about the provision for children with special needs and confirm risk assessment;
- Adhere to health and safety requirements;

The role of adult helpers:

- The welfare of specific children in changing room. Supervision and oversight of designated child, ensuring the child understands and follows instructions.
- Consult with the member of staff in charge and agree arrangements to be made about the provision for children with special needs and confirm risk assessment.
- Adhere to health and safety requirements.

The role of the PE subject leader:

- To undertake a risk assessment of the school's swimming provision and monitor its implementation;
- To ensure that the law relating to SEND is followed whereby schools take all reasonable steps to avoid discriminating against pupils on the grounds of their disability.
- To maintain and keep a record of the pupils' swimming achievements inside and outside of school.
- To report to the governing body on the impact of the school's swimming provision.
- Ensure the recommended teacher ratios are adhered to. (See Appendix 1)
- To ensure annual briefing sessions take place with all staff involved with swimming provision.

The swimming instructor will:

- Possess DBS clearance.
- Have full ASA Teachers Award or an STA equivalent as well as a life-saving



award recognised by Health and Safety Unit.

- Possess a relevant First Aid certificate.
- Make sure all children and teachers know safety drills.
- Have all equipment ready and in the correct place in the teaching area.
- Consult with the accompanying teacher and agree arrangements to be made about the provision for children with special needs and confirm risk assessment
- Ensure children know the procedure for the start/end of lesson, their grouping and assigned area of pool and teacher.
- To assess and record pupil progress.
- Organise classes according to:
 - Class numbers.
 - Pupil ability.
 - Numbers of teachers/adult helpers

HEALTH AND SAFETY

It is essential that schools take note of and comply with 'Safe Practice in Physical Education' [BAALPE] which provides detailed, authoritative guidance on safety issues, including safety in swimming lessons and the DfE guidelines on educational visits. 'The duty of care for all pupils remains at all times with the accompanying teacher.' (BAALPE Safe Practice in Physical Education) All staff will be involved with swimming provision will have read the relevant BAALPE documentation.

Behaviour

The swimming pool is a place of work and should be treated as a classroom with the same rules regarding behaviour.

Attendance

All parents must ensure that their children attend all allocated lessons. As swimming is a statutory part of the National Curriculum. Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from this statutory element of the National Curriculum, unless the child has an EHCP (Education Health Care Plan).

Older children are encouraged to be independent in terms of organising their swimming kits. Children who forget their swimming kits or cannot participate in the lesson for any reason will be required to attend and observe the lessons from the side of the pool. This is in line with the other aspects of the PE curriculum delivery.

Parents of children returning from an illness that would prevent them from swimming for a short period of time must provide the school with medical evidence of the illness in order that they may be excused from the lesson. Should a child not be able to swim for an extended period of time, a Doctor's letter must be provided.

Swimming Kit

Girls should wear a one-piece swimsuit and boys should wear swimming trunks (not baggy 'board shorts'). All children should wear a swim hat, with girls ensuring that their hair is tied up. Provision must be made for alternative attire for minority ethnic pupils when a request is made. We do not encourage beginner swimmers to wear goggles.



Safeguarding

The CPSU document 'Standards for Safeguarding Children in Sport' relates to the prevention and minimisation of risk and provides guidance on the measures that help reduce the possibility of children being abused in sport and leisure.

This is based on the recognition that some people pose a risk to children and young people and will use sport and leisure opportunities to gain access to them. It is possible to minimise the risks and to prevent abuse by putting safeguards in place. One method is to ensure that activities are planned to ensure children are appropriately and adequately supervised at all times.

It is recognised that there are a number of risks specific to the changing room area from health and safety to supervision ratios.

The presence of unsupervised children, particularly in open changing or shower areas, can cause concern for facility staff and members of the public.

Sport and recreation facilities may provide an environment within which adults who are motivated to harm children may choose to act. Therefore, providing proper supervision at the time a child is most vulnerable is important.

It is recommended that LEAs, schools and sport and recreation service providers put in place the following practices and procedures relating to changing.

- Where possible separate school changing areas should be made available. It is not appropriate for members of the public to share the same changing facilities as those used by school swimmers. Facility providers, wherever possible, should make arrangements for separate changing areas or changing times to be made available for school swimming sessions where a pool is used by members of the public at the same time. When this is not possible, appropriate supervision arrangements should be agreed between the pool and school.

Where single sex changing facilities are provided, a responsible adult of the same sex accompanying the children should undertake the supervision of the changing area.

- Design of the changing rooms should be considered in detail, and in many instances the redesign of changing rooms is the only solution to minimising risk. Ideally, changing villages should be designed with three elements:

an all female section, an all male section and a buffer in between for family changing.

Separate changing rooms for schools and groups should still be provided in addition to the village changing area. Two sets of showers should also be provided – one for pre-swim hygiene available for use by either sex en route to the pool, and single stall private showers within separate toilet areas for each sex for post swim showers.

- Within facilities providing 'village' changing accommodation or equipped with group or family changing, a responsible adult should undertake the supervision of the changing area. Group or family changing areas may be mixed and may require male and female supervision

- Club/school changing rooms should be included in the changing area and must be both secure and readily supervised by the responsible adult in charge of the class

- Springs Leisure Centre staff have agreed to check the changing rooms prior to STJF swimming lessons each week to ensure the rooms are empty.



- The swimming pool provider should have in place a child protection protocol that identifies the relationship between the LEAs child protection procedures and the pool's procedures for child protection
- The swimming pool provider should appoint a designated person with responsibility for child protection that should liaise with the school's designated teacher in the event of a concern.
- The swimming pool provider should have in place a child protection policy and procedure that clearly identifies which steps should be taken in the event of a concern being raised
- The swimming pool provider should publicise to all pool users which member of staff within the facility concerns should be reported to.

Reviewed February 2018

ABroadhead

Appendix 1

ASA Guidelines for School Sw

4. Teacher to Pupil Ratios

Each swimming pool will have a designated maximum bather capacity appropriate to the size of the pool and activity taking place, which should be specified in the Normal Operating Procedure (NOP).

Pupil to teacher ratios must not exceed 20:1 and, in the majority of cases, primary school swimming should be less than this.

The following ratios are based on Health and Safety considerations and quality delivery of the lesson.

	Health and Safety	Quality Delivery
Non-swimmers and beginners – Young children, normally primary school age, being introduced to swimming who are unable to swim 10 metres unaided on back or front	12:1	8:1
Children under the age of seven – Irrespective of their swimming ability group size should be restricted	12:1	8:1
Improving swimmers – Swimmers of a similar ability to each other who can swim at least 10 metres competently and unaided on their back and on their front. It is recommended that the lesson be confined to an area in which the children are not out of their depth	20:1	12:1
Mixed ability groups – Pupils with a range of abilities (from improving to competent) where the least able and least confident are working well within their depth. Swimmers techniques, stamina and deep water experience should be considered	20:1	12:1
Competent swimmers – Those swimmers who can swim at least 25 metres competently and unaided on front and back, and can tread water for two minutes	20:1	15:1
Swimmers with disabilities – Each situation must be considered individually, as people with disabilities are not a homogeneous group. Care must be taken to ensure that there are sufficient helpers in the water to provide a 1:1 ratio for those needing constant support, and a sufficient number of other helpers to provide the degree of support required by the range of disabilities within the group	8:1 with 1:1 support in the water where required	6:1 with 1:1 support in the water where required

