

CBS Primary School,

Chapel Street,

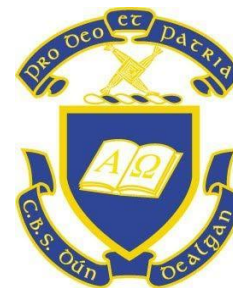
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Swimming Policy

The Board of Management of CBS Primary School recognises the importance of education in water safety and the priority given to the strand of Aquatics in the Physical Education (P.E.) curriculum.

Aims

The aims of this policy are:

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

Procedures and Guidelines

Each pupil will attend a block of swimming lessons annually from the 2nd to Sixth Classes.

Costs incurred by the pool hire, transport to and from the pool and payment of instructors necessitate an imposed charge on each pupil. This will be sent to parents via a letter from the school and a payment request on Aladdin, 6-8 weeks before lessons commence. The inability to pay will not preclude a pupil from participating fully in swimming classes.

It is the school's policy that all pupils attend swimming lessons unless exempted by a doctor. A pupil who needs to opt out of a swimming class for a medical reason should provide a note of excuse, written and signed by the parent or guardian. A medical cert will be required if there is a medical condition that precludes the child from swimming long-term.

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 their swimming gear, such as a sports bag or similar bag with a secure zip or other fastenings.

Generally, children who do not have additional needs will have sufficiently developed personal care skills to manage changing/dressing with ease. Children with additional needs who usually have access to a Special Needs Assistant (SNA) will be assisted by an SNA or teacher (see Intimate Care Needs Policy).

The SNA is not required to enter the water with any child, they may however support the child from the sidelines if the need arises. The instructor's responsibility, be it an individual or group instructor, is to teach the child with additional needs their swimming lessons.

Each class will be grouped by swimming ability, and each group will not exceed 15. It is the responsibility of the swimming instructor to decide on what swimming group level each child should go swimming with. This is determined in the first week of the swimming lesson term. The class teacher does not specify what level each child should swim at.

The school will endeavour to have two adults present in the dressing room area to supervise the children before and after the swimming lesson.

All items brought to the pool must be clearly labelled with the child's name. This includes the bag, tracksuit/uniform, socks, underwear and shoes.

Each child must have their own togs, armbands (if required), towel, swim cap and toiletries (e.g. shampoo, shower gel). All of which must also be marked. It is advised that children wear a latex swimming hat if possible to keep their hair dry, long hair should be braided and secured inside the hat.

As a result of supervision limitations, school staff are unable to supervise pupils hair-drying at school or at the swimming pool. The following arrangements apply:

- Double cloth swim hats
- Latex swim hats
- Plaits
- turban towels for hair during class

While in the pool, pupils must endeavour to obey the instructor's orders and comply with the School Code of Behaviour.

Teachers will remain on the viewing deck during the lesson to supervise the overall group and pupils who may need to use the toilets.

Overall responsibility for safety in the swimming pool belongs to the pool management

While the swimming instructor conducts the instructional programme and is responsible for doing this safely and effectively; it is essential that notwithstanding the role of the swimming instructor, *the delegated member of the school staff (the most senior person present) has overriding responsibility for supervision and may need to seek clarification or to intervene if deemed necessary.*

Instructional Arrangements

The school will organise the swimming programme for all classes from Second to Sixth. Qualified instructors will provide instruction in the pool.

Travel and Supervision Arrangements

- Each child will have a partner to travel to and from the pool building

- When using a bus, each child must sit quietly with a partner, not move from their own seat and must put on a seat belt
- All children must line up quietly outside the pool and walk in an orderly fashion to and from the school and pool building, accompanied by school staff
- The designated school swimming co-ordinator will be responsible for the overall smooth, safe and orderly movement of all pupils to and from the pool

Pool Rules

- Pupils are not allowed into the pool area unless supervised by a class teacher
- Pupils should not enter the water unless the instructor and lifeguard are visible on poolside
- Pupils must wear appropriate swimwear and swimming hats for all. If a child wishes to do so, Aura Pool permits the wearing of t-shirts (along with swimwear).
- Cultural and religious requirements may require special consideration, but the school will make the final judgement on the suitability of swimwear

Roles and Responsibilities

School-related outings are enjoyable and provide fantastic authentic learning opportunities for children. Each child must be responsible for making these activities enjoyable and worthwhile. The essential roles and responsibilities of children, parents and staff are outlined below:

Pupils

Remember to take their swimming gear to school on the appropriate days.

Take instructions from their teacher and behave appropriately on their way to the pool, at the pool and on their return from the pool.

Actively engage in the swimming lessons and listen carefully to the swimming instructors.

Change and dress themselves at a designated spot in an assigned changing room. Pupils should remain in that spot, change quickly, set their clothes in a neat pile, not interfere with other pupils' clothes, and not comment on their belongings. When ready, each pupil must remain quietly in the changing room until a staff member is prepared to accompany them to the pool.

Be mindful of their privacy and respect the privacy of others. Comply with school and swimming pool rules.

Not run or shout in the changing room.

Take responsibility for personal hygiene and safety at the pool.

Take responsibility for their belongings.

Expectations will be adjusted in the case of pupils with additional needs. Swimming instructors will be notified of any pupils with additional needs who may require support.

Parents

Understand that swimming lessons are part of the Primary Curriculum and, therefore, all children are expected to participate fully. Children will only be exempt for medical reasons. In such instances, parents are advised to inform the school principal in writing and provide a medical exemption certificate.

Support the teacher's work by encouraging their child to participate fully in the learning activities relating to the aquatics strand in the classroom and the swimming pool.

Teach their child the necessary personal care skills for attending swimming lessons, e.g., drying their bodies, dressing themselves, repacking their bag etc.

Pay for the cost of the swimming lessons.

Assist their children in organising the necessary swimming gear, e.g., swimwear, goggles, towel, etc.

In rare cases of children who have real difficulties in dressing themselves (but do not usually have access to a Special Needs Assistant), parents may decide to attend the swim sessions to assist their child with dressing in consultation with the Deputy Principal or class teacher.

Parents and guardians are not permitted in the viewing area of the swimming pool while the lessons are in progress.

Teachers

Teach appropriate classroom lessons to prepare the children for the swimming lessons in the pool, e.g., Water safety, hygiene, and privacy.

Remind the children about road safety so that the journey to and from the pool may be used as an exercise to support learning about road safety.

Supervise the children on their way to and from the swimming pool. Pupils will be accompanied by and supervised by a teacher to and from the pool. Pupils may travel by bus to the pool, and the teacher will provide supervision before and after the swimming lesson.

Coordinate with other adults to ensure that someone from the school is in the viewing area during the lessons to supervise the children who have exemptions but are present at the pool and ensure that someone is available to assist any child who may need to leave the pool deck for any reason.

Supervise the children in the changing area. Two adults will be present in the changing area.

Report incidents of serious misbehaviour to the deputy principal or Principal.

Ensure that sufficient time is given to the children to shower/rinse off after the swimming lesson, dress and towel-dry their hair

Behaviour: Recording Procedures

- Children are praised and commended for appropriate behaviour.
- The class teacher records incidents of misbehaviour. A written record is given in the pupil's school diary
- Gross misbehaviour will result in the withdrawal of a pupil from the next swimming lesson. Parents will be invited to discuss the issues with the deputy principal or Principal.

Specific duties of Swimming Co-ordinator

- The encouragement of all aspects of swimming within the agreed scheme
- Liaison with pool management and staff, where appropriate
- Reporting any difficulties or problems that arise which cannot be resolved at the time to the deputy principal or Principal
- Supplying relevant information about the progress of the pupils to the school
- Supply swimming instructors with information regarding pupils with special medical, physical or psychological needs

Health and Safety

The Health and Safety Guidelines outlined by the pool authorities will be strictly adhered to.

Pupils are required to behave at all times to ensure the safety of all involved in school swimming.

Parents and guardians will receive a standard letter providing information on school swimming. They will also receive a digital link to the school's Swimming Policy.

Where a parent/guardian has a health concern that would affect their child's participation in swimming, a doctor's letter must be submitted to the school.

In the child's best interest, the parents/guardians must inform the class teacher or Principal about any health condition that may affect the child in the pool. This information will be held in confidence and may be provided to the swimming instructors.

Implementation and Review

The Board of Management adopted this reviewed policy on February 2023.

Signed: Deirdre Kerr, Chairperson, BOM Date: February 2026.

Signed: Eileen Hart, Principal, Date: February 2026.

Date of next review: February 2029

Aura Pool Procedures and Rules



- Pre-shower before your lesson.
- Listen to whatever the lifeguard tells you at all times: they have your safety in mind.
- Walk slowly around the pool area.
- No running in pool area.
- No jumping, bombing or pushing anyone in the pool area.
- In the case of inappropriate behaviour two warnings will be given by the swimming instructor followed by time out with the class teacher.
- Gross misbehaviour will result in withdrawal from lessons the following week.
- Don't jump or push other children.
- No eating gum while you swim.
- Never pretend to be drowning: The lifeguard may take you seriously.
- All children must wear swimming hats.

