



# SWIMMING POLICY

## INTRODUCTION

This policy was revised in March 2022 by the staff and Board of Management of Canal Way ETNS. This policy is to support and inform swimming lessons and procedures around accessing the Aquatics strand of the PE curriculum.

## AIMS

- To enable pupils to begin to acquire basic water safety skills
- To impart an enthusiasm for learning basic swimming skills
- To comply with the requirements of the revised Child Protection policies
- To comply with the requirements of the Revised Curriculum in aquatics.

## PROCEDURES GUIDELINES

- Each Child will ideally attend 8 lessons per year, from second class to sixth class.
- In the event of timetabling constraints swimming lessons for 3rd class will be prioritised to ensure all year groups will attend swimming lessons during their time in Canal Way
- Costs incurred will necessitate a charge for each child.
- Inability to pay will not preclude a pupil from participating in swimming classes.
- The Board of Management will aim to supplement the cost of the lessons by 20% provided there is money available to allocate this.

- The children will always remain in the care of the teacher who will be present at all times at the pool area. They will have the autonomy to stop the lesson or remove children from the lesson where they see fit.
- Children will receive a lesson on water safety and expected behaviour in the pool prior to the children starting their 8 week visit to the pool.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS:**

- As it is an integral part of the school curriculum all children attending school on swimming days are expected to participate in swimming classes.
- Teachers and school management will organise the programme for all classes.
- A minimum of three members of staff to attend lessons and to supervise in changing rooms. Parents will not be involved in this supervision.
- Depending on the individual circumstances of a child the school may decide to implement procedures to meet the child's specific needs
- Instruction in the pool will be provided by professional coaches
- While traveling to the pool, pupils will be accompanied and supervised by the class teacher and support staff including SNAs to and from the pool.
- Ideally the children will be brought back to school by bus and collected from the school by parents/ guardians.
- 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.
- Pupils are required to behave at all times in a manner that ensures the safety of all involved in school swimming.
- Parents/guardians will receive a written communication providing information on swimming lessons before their child starts their swimming term.( Appendix 1)
- Parents must grant consent for a child to participate via Aladdin. Children will not be allowed to participate without this. Class teachers to check all children have consent one week before lessons commence.
- Deodorants (aerosol spray) must not be brought to the pool as the dressing rooms are confined spaces.
- The facility has a pool side shower for pre and post swim rinse only therefore toiletries are not permitted. Toiletries that are permitted include emollients for skin conditions such as eczema. Please inform the class teacher in writing if your child if such a cream is needed.
- Due to time constraints, children will towel dry hair only.

- The Health and Safety Guidelines outlined by the pool authorities will be strictly adhered to.
- In the event of unsafe unacceptable behaviour, the Code of Behaviour will be followed and parents informed whether or not the child can continue with the lessons.

## **INCLUSION:**

Where a parent/guardian has a 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. Refer to the Chronic Illness Policy.

Parents can make an appointment with the school to discuss any reason your child cannot participate in swimming lessons. CWETNS will endeavor to offer supports, so the lessons can take place for your child. All efforts will be made by staff, facilitators, parents and management to support children with special needs to access the lessons.

## **WATER SAFETY**

The PAWS water safety programme will be taught in the final term of each year to every year group.

## **RATIFICATION AND COMMUNICATION:**

This policy will be in operation in the school year 2022 having been ratified by Staff and BoM. Every teacher will be provided with a copy of this policy for their files.

**Date of next policy review: 2024/2025**

**Signed on Behalf of the Board of Management:**

**Treasa Ní Mhurchú - Chairperson 06.2022** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dermot Stanley - School Principal 06.2022** \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 1

Dear Parents / Guardians,

### 3rd Class – Swimming

After the Spring Holidays our 3rd class children will attend swimming lessons as a part of the aquatics section of the Physical Educational Curriculum. Swimming is an essential life-skill and an invaluable part of PE. The lessons will accommodate children of all swimming abilities therefore no previous experience is necessary.

A hired bus will take the children to Swan Leisure in Rathmines on Thursday mornings at 10.30am starting on \_\_\_\_\_ for eight weeks. All children in 3rd Class will be included in these lessons and need to have their swimming kit with them on Thursdays. They will need to bring a small plastic bag /drawstring bag containing:-

- swimming trunks/ suits (one piece swimming suits please)
- towel
- swimming hat
- hairbrush
- goggles (optional )
- flip flops /footwear (optional)

Please clearly label all items of clothing and swimming gear. Ensure that no jewelry is worn on the day. And that long hair is tied back. Hair dryers will not be available to use after lessons.

In preparation for the swimming lessons, it is a good time to for your child practice the following skills at home:

- dress /undress independently including swimming suits and hats.
- fold clothes and towels
- place socks inside shoes
- dry after a bath or shower (including between toes)
- dry wet hair with a towel.
- tie shoelaces

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

The total cost of the swimming lessons and bus is **€50** for eight weeks thanks to a 20% contribution from the Board of Management. A payment link will be sent to you via Aladdin. Payment for this serves as permission for your child to attend the eight week swimming course.