



St Vincent's Special National School



SWIMMING POOL PROCEDURE

The Aquatics Programme is concerned with gaining competence and confidence near, in, under and on water. It provides unique opportunities for enjoyment, physical activity, swim techniques, water safety and allowing the child the sensation of buoyancy. The term 'aquatics' is used to include not only the teaching of swimming strokes but the provision of opportunities for enjoyment of water play and other aspects of aquatics.

- Hygiene
- Water safety
- Entry to and exit from the water
- Buoyancy and propulsion
- Stroke development
- Water-based ball games
- Understanding and appreciation of aquatics

Pupils participate in swimming at both a group and individual level and supervised by the class teacher and/or SNA staff. (The Special Needs Assistant (SNA) scheme to Circular 0030/2014)

Aims

- To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming skills while they are at St Vincent's Special N.S.
- To comply with the requirements of the revised curriculum in aquatics.

Rationale

The school has regard to both the physical and mental development of each of its pupils. In support of our Whole School Plan for SPHE, the school arranges for a minimum of an eight-week course of swimming in the Aura swimming pool for each of its students during the school year unless there are medical or other factors that prohibits access.

Health and Safety

Staff will follow the guidelines of our own Health & Safety and Child Safeguarding Statement, and Intimate Care Policies at all times.

Pupils are required to behave at all times in a manner that ensures the safety of all involved in school swimming.

Pupils must endeavor to obey the instructors and staff orders at all times and comply with the School Code of Behaviour.

Parents/guardians will receive a standard letter providing information on school swimming before their child starts their swimming term.



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All pupils must have a signed permission slip by a parent in order to participate in swimming. Failure to provide this signed permission slip means that the child cannot participate.

Staff should remain on the viewing deck during the lesson in order to supervise the overall group and pupils who may need to use the toilets during the lesson.

If any injury or accident occurs at the pool, the lifeguard on duty will attend to the injury. Any incident reports completed by the swimming pool staff will be copied and brought back to the school.

School staff who are supervising swimming are expected to communicate any concerns regarding health and safety of the pupils to the swimming pool staff and the school management.

Circular 30/2014 outlines that SNA staff can assist with enabling a pupil to access therapy or psycho-educational programmes, under the direction of qualified personnel, including class teachers or support teachers. The Multi- Disciplinary Team may recommend regular access to swimming to support Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy needs or behavioural support. SNA staff can also assist to attend or participate in out of school activities: walks, or visits, where such assistance cannot be provided by teaching staff.

A risk assessment for swimming is carried out where appropriate, in accordance with an individual need.

All children attending swimming should wear their tracksuit. It is suggested that swimming togs be worn under tracksuits coming to school. Each child must have a suitable bag to carry his/her swimming gear.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the intimate care and care safeguarding policy.

Ratification & Communication:

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management 31st March 2022 and communicated to the school community thereafter.

Review Timetable:

This policy will be reviewed in 2 years' time and amended as necessary by means of a whole school collaborative process.