

## POLICY ON SWIMMING

### Aims/Purposes

- To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming skills while they are at Wexford Educate Together National School
- To comply with the requirements of the Physical Education Revised Curriculum 1999 in Aquatics.

### Procedures Guidelines

- Each pupil will attend a 6 week session in a swimming pool annually from 1<sup>st</sup> class upwards.
- The swimming pool at Whitford House Hotel has been reserved for five weeks from Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> of May.
- Costs incurred by hiring of pool, and payment of instructors necessitate a charge of €30 being imposed on each pupil. Inability to pay will not preclude a pupil from participating fully in swimming classes.

### Instructional Arrangements

- The school management will organize the swimming programme for all classes from first to sixth
- In developing partnership with the parents in the school, the class teacher, along with parent volunteer(s) will co-ordinate and supervise the swimming sessions
- Instruction in the pool will be provided by trained coach at Whitford swimming pool.

### Travel and Supervision Arrangements

Pupils will be accompanied by the teachers and supervised by and class teacher on the way to the pool from the school. Pupils will walk to the pool and class teachers will provide supervision before and after the swimming lesson. Pupils are available to be collected by parents from Whitford Swimming Pool from 2.30 p.m.

### 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. Two male and two female supervisors shall be present at all times in the male and female changing rooms respectively.

Pupils are required to behave at all times in a manner that ensures the safety of all involved in school swimming. Any form of misbehavior will be treated seriously and in accordance with our Code of Behaviour.



Parents/guardians will receive a standard letter providing information on school swimming before their child starts their swimming term. A consent note, granting permission for a child to participate in swimming must be returned to the class teacher, along with the fee, prior to the start of the swimming term.

Where a parent/guardian has a health concern regarding their child's participation in swimming, professional advice must be sought before the child participates in the swimming lesson. A medical note must be presented if a child is not to partake in swimming lessons. This child may be supervised at the school for the duration of the 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. This information will be held in confidence and provided on a need to know basis to the swimming instructors.

Deodorants etc. must not be brought to the pool as the dressing rooms are confined spaces. The Health and Safety Guidelines outlined by the pool authorities will be strictly adhered to.

**Special Needs:**

Children with special needs will be assessed on an individual basis. Where possible, all children will be included in our swimming lessons unless advised otherwise by a medical professional. In preparation for swimming lessons, the Learning Support Teacher will work closely with the class teacher, child and parents. Preparation may include a visit to the pool prior to the commencement of the swimming lessons.

**Monitoring / Evaluation / Review:**

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management in May 2011.  
Policy is revised annually or at other times if deemed necessary