

# Swimming Policy June 12th 2017

## Aims/Purposes

To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming skills while they are at Scoil Mhuire Junior School, Ballymany.

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. Believing that a healthy body promotes a healthy mind, the school arranges for a course of swimming lessons in K-Leisure swimming pool in Naas for each of its students during the school year.

## Procedural Guidelines

- Each pupil will attend the course of lessons annually from 1<sup>st</sup> – 2nd class.
- The ratio of instructor to pupils will be one to 18.
- Attendance at this course fulfils the Aquatics Module of the PE Curriculum as laid down by the Department of Education & Skills and parents defray the cost of the course and also that of the transport to and from the pool. If a parent is unable to do this, the board will offer to defray the cost for them.
- All children will participate in aquatics lessons as part of the National Curriculum. Should a child be unable to attend aquatics, due to a medical condition, a letter must be written to the Board of Management requesting exemption. Arrangements for supervision in this instance will be made on a case-by-case basis. Should a child be unable to attend one lesson due to ill health or any other reason, a letter must be given to the class teacher. Instances like this will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Only in special circumstances he/she may travel with the class to the pool. Otherwise they will remain in school under the supervision of another teacher. If a pattern emerges of a child missing several lessons, parents will be contacted.
- Pupils will be accompanied and supervised by a class teacher on the way to the pool from the school. A minimum of one volunteer will accompany teacher to pool. **Only volunteers who have filled out the garda vetting form can help out with swimming.** Pupils will travel by coach to the pool and the class teacher will provide supervision before and after the swimming lesson. Pupils are not available to be collected by parents

from the swimming pool.

- Two classes at a time from each year group will attend.
- All children attending the course should wear their tracksuit. (Swimming togs are worn under tracksuits coming to school). Each child must have a suitable bag to carry his/her swimming gear (Sports bag or similar with secure zip or other fastening).
- **All items** brought to the pool should be clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Each child must have their own togs/shorts, towel, arm bands and swim cap, all of which should be labelled.
- In the event of a child forgetting their swimming gear the school will have a very limited supply of spare togs, hats, towels and arm bands available so the child does not miss their lesson.

### **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. Staff will follow the guidelines of our own Health & Safety and Child Protection 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 obey the instructor's orders at all times and comply with the School Behaviour Management policy.
- Parents/guardians will receive a standard letter providing information on school swimming before their child starts their swimming term. The letter will also state that the policy is available on [www.scmj.ie](http://www.scmj.ie)
- Teachers of all classes remain within view of the children during the lesson in order to supervise the overall group and pupils who may need to use the toilets during the lesson or may have medical needs.
- The permission from parents to the school to let children go swimming is covered in Section 4 of Application Form for Junior Infants.

### **Monitoring / Evaluation / Review**

This policy is revised at regular intervals as the need arises, or at other times if deemed necessary. This policy was last approved by the Board of Management on 20th June 2017

