

# Scoil Mhuire gan Smál, Cill Choirle

## Policy on Swimming



### Policy Details

Name of Policy: Policy on Swimming

Date Developed: January 2020

Signed by

Date Reviewed: Sept 2023

Chairperson: *Ceráidín Kild*

Ref Code:

Principal: *Donna Kirby*

Edition: 2

Date commenced: 30/1/2020

1.

## **Policy Statement**

- 1.1 Scoil Mhuire gan Smál has regard to both the physical and mental development of each of its pupils as part of the school's overall commitment to education.
- 1.2 This policy is intended to ensure the well-being of staff and children when partaking in swimming.
- 1.3 This policy should be used in conjunction with the Safeguarding Statement, Supervision Policy, GDPR Policy, and P.E. Policy.
- 1.4 Aquatics is a required strand of the P.E. Curriculum. Swimming instruction is one component of that strand.

## **2. Policy Purpose**

- 2.1 To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming skills while they are attending Scoil Mhuire gan Smál.
- 2.2 To comply with the requirements of the P.E. Curriculum in aquatics.

## **3. Policy Scope**

- 3.1 This policy applies to all pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class inclusive attending Scoil Mhuire gan Smál.
- 3.2 This policy applies to all staff involved in the swimming programme.
- 3.3 This policy applies to all parents/guardians of children participating in the swimming programme.

## **4. Procedure**

- 4.1 The P.E. plan provides for each pupil from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Class to attend a number of sessions in the swimming pool annually (e.g. 4/6 sessions).
- 4.2 The School Principal, in consultation with the teaching staff and the swimming pool authority, agrees the swimming schedule to best suit the needs of the school.
- 4.3 The swimming lesson times are reserved by the school secretary, and confirmed with a contract, signed by the School Principal and swim coaches.
- 4.4 Instruction in the pool will be provided by the swimming pool authority coaches in accordance with the contract.
- 4.5 A member of the swimming pool staff will organise the swimming programme for all classes from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. Children are graded into ability groups by the coaches.
- 4.6 Costs incurred by hiring of pool, payment of instructors, and travel to and from the pool necessitate a charge being imposed on each pupil. Inability to pay will not preclude a pupil from participating fully in swimming classes.

- 4.7 Our Parents' Association have, over the past number of years, made a generous annual financial contribution towards the cost of swimming lessons/bus hire to help reduce the costs incurred.
- 4.8 Pupils are required to provide their own swimming wear, goggles, swim hat, towels etc. required for the activity.
- 4.9 For a pupil who does not participate in swimming lessons, the parent/guardian must inform the Principal/Class Teacher in writing the reasons why their child is not participating in this component of the aquatics strand.
- 4.10 Pupils who are not attending the programme of swimming lessons as above will be supervised in school by a teacher in another classroom.

## **5. Travel and Supervision Arrangements**

- 5.1 Pupils will travel by bus, accompanied and supervised by Class Teachers, SNAs and/or designated staff personnel when travelling to and from the swimming pool.
- 5.2 Class Teachers and school personnel will provide supervision before and after the swimming lessons.
- 5.3 Pupils are supervised by swimming instructors when in the pool, with teachers and school personnel on the viewing stand.
- 5.4 The parents/guardians of pupils who are not participating in a particular swimming lesson must inform the teacher in writing. Such pupils will accompany their class to the swimming pool and will be supervised by school personnel on the viewing stand.

## **6. Health and Safety**

- 6.1 Parents/guardians will receive a standard letter providing information on school swimming before their child starts their swimming term.
- 6.2 A Parental Consent Form, granting permission for a child to participate in swimming, must be returned to the Class Teacher prior to the start of the swimming term.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 The Health and Safety Guidelines outlined by the pool authorities within their schools programme will be strictly adhered to.
- 6.6 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.

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

## **7. Development, Monitoring and Review**

7.1 The need for this policy was identified by staff in Scoil Mhuire gan Smál.

7.2 This policy will be reviewed every three years, or as required.

## **8. References**

8.1 PDST – Physical Education -> Strands -> Aquatics <https://pdst.ie/Aquatics>

8.2 Swim Ireland Safeguarding <https://www.swimireland.ie/about/safeguarding>

8.3 Irish Sports Council Safeguarding and Ethics for Children and Young People in Sport  
[https://www.sportireland.ie/Participation/Code\\_of\\_Ethics/](https://www.sportireland.ie/Participation/Code_of_Ethics/)

8.4 National Safety Council Safeguarding  
<https://www.nsc.org/Portals/0/Documents/facultyportal/Documents/apm-et13e-chapter-6-safeguarding.ppt>