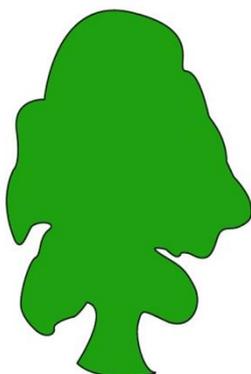


Swimming Policy

FOR ELMHURST SCHOOL



Adopted:	April 2016
Next Review Date:	April 2019
Responsible Committee	Curriculum, Pupils & Community

Signed:	
Headteacher:	Mrs R. Lee
Chair of Governors:	Mr D. Gamble

Swimming Policy

Aims of School Swimming

School swimming aims to:

- Provide a meaningful and safe swimming experience for children.
- Enable our children to become confident and competent swimmers.

It does this through the teaching of the National Curriculum.

National Curriculum

The National Curriculum states:

All schools must provide swimming instruction either in key stage 1 or key stage 2.

In particular, pupils should be taught to:

- swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres
- use a range of strokes effectively [for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke]
- perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations

Equal Opportunities

All children have equal access to the swimming curriculum regardless of race, gender or ability and in line with the school's policies on Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Gifted and Talented children. Equal access to all aspects of the swimming programme will be available to all children. Any child with special educational needs will participate in all activities as far as possible according to his/her abilities, in consultation with the Special Needs Co-ordinator, parents and any special needs personnel. If for any reason it is not possible to provide swimming for a child then alternative, appropriate activities will be provided. Further information of integrating children with Special Educational Needs is found in the Buckinghamshire Learning Trust Safe Practice in Swimming Policy p.34.

Organisation of School Swimming

Swimming at Elmhurst School is timetabled in the Summer term for children from Year 4 – Year 6.

Children are not permitted to swim unsupervised or without an appropriate level of lifeguarding. A lifeguard must be able to observe the water at all times and remain on the poolside at all times.

The supervising teacher must be on poolside in a position to see the whole group at all times.

Teachers will always retain overall responsibility for the safety of pupils.

No diving is permitted unless the water is deeper than 1.8 metres.

Behaviour, Health and Safety

The swimming pool is a place of learning and should be treated as a classroom with the same rules regarding behaviour.

At Elmhurst School we access AquaVale swimming pool.

Elmhurst School

Children are required to walk to the swimming pool and it is the responsibility of the class teachers to familiarise themselves with the journey and the associated risk assessment.

Class teachers will also have to ensure the necessary adult supervision to ensure the children's safety as they journey to and from the pool.

Elmhurst School adopts guidance for swimming from The Buckinghamshire Learning Trust Safe Practice in Swimming Policy.

The teacher : pupil ratios are:

12:1 – for children who are unable to swim 10m unaided on their front and back

20:1 – for swimmers who can swim at least 10m competently and unaided on their front and back.

Normal and emergency procedures are detailed in AquaVale's Normal Operating Procedure and Emergency Action Plan documents.

Clothing

Whilst swimming, children should wear a swimsuit or trunks. They may wear leggings and/or a t-shirt over their swimwear but these should not restrict their movement in the pool. All children must wear a swimming hat whilst in the water.

Children are not allowed to wear goggles when swimming.

Safeguarding

It is the responsibility of the PE Coordinator to assure themselves that the leisure centre have carried out appropriate DBS checks and undertaken any other relevant safeguarding vetting checks.

When supervising children changing or assisting them with their swimming, pool and school staff and adults other than teachers should avoid physical contact with children unless it is:

- Essential to develop a swimming skill or technique
- To treat an injury
- To prevent an injury
- To meet the requirement of the activity (e.g. lifesaving)
- To lift or manually support a child with disabilities
- To assist with a personal care task which the child cannot undertake by themselves

In these circumstances the adult should explain the reason for the physical contact to the child, unless it is an emergency situation. School staff should also refer to the school safeguarding policy.

As suggested by the ASA, when a child needs to be handled in the water, the adult should:

- ensure that any handling of pupils is done within clear sight of other persons
- always explain to the pupil that you are now going to hold him/her and why, to avoid embarrassment
- never support pupils in a way that their hands cannot be seen by the spectators
- never support a pupil by handling the swimmer's torso
- only support swimmer by holding their hands, head or feet
- ensure there is a system whereby the parent or guardian of the pupil gives permission for the teacher to handle the children for the purposes of supporting them in the water or manipulating limbs to convey correct stroke technique (this could be through a parental swimming permission form)

Duty of Care

'The duty of care for pupils involved in swimming remains at all times with the accompanying teacher.'
[BAALPE Safe Practice in Physical Education].

Medical Conditions

It is the responsibility of the class teacher to alert the swimming instructors and the PE Coordinator to any children with medical conditions in their class. There must be an alerting mechanism/procedure in place for children at risk, e.g. coloured wristbands/hats or a pair of seeing eyes. Different needs will require different courses of action and may require safety arrangements. These arrangements must be clearly understood by all supervising adults. This will be specified in the risk assessment undertaken,

Assessment and Record Keeping

The swimming ability of the children will be assessed at the beginning of a unit of work by the swimming instructor and recorded. Records will be kept of the progress of individual pupils throughout the unit of work.