



Saint Luke's National School

Tyrrelstown

Dublin 15.

Ireland.

Ph. 01-8856015

www.stlukesns.ie

Roll Number 16675V



Swimming Policy

Aims/Purposes

- To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming skills while they are at St. Luke's NS.
- 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 six week course of swimming instruction in the National Aquatic Centre swimming pool for each of its 3rd class pupils.

Procedures Guidelines

- Each of the 3rd class pupils will attend a 6-week session in a swimming pool annually in the first term.
- The swimming pool at the Aquatic Centre has been reserved from 13:10- 13:40.
- Attendance at this course fulfils the Aquatics Module of the PE Curriculum as laid down by the Department of Education. The school pays for the swimming lessons and the parents pay for the transport to and from the Aquatic Centre. If the parents cannot pay, then the Board of Management will cover the cost of the transport.
- All children are encouraged to participate in aquatics lessons as part of the National Curriculum. Participation is not mandatory and is at the discretion of the parents.
- Pupils will be accompanied by and supervised by a class teacher and SET teacher on the way to the pool from the school. Pupils will travel by coach to the pool and the class teacher/SET teacher will provide supervision before and after the swimming lesson. Pupils will return to school around 2.30pm.



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- Pupils are taught by a fully trained swimming instructor at a ratio of 12:1.
- All children attending the course should wear their tracksuit. (Swimming togs may be 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 must be clearly labelled with the child's name. This includes the bag, tracksuit, socks, underwear and shoes.
- Each child must have their own togs (without pockets), towel, hair brush and swim cap, all of which must also be marked.
- Time is limited so children are not encouraged to bring shampoo and shower gel to the pool and to quickly rinse after their lessons
- There is not enough time to fully dry children's hair with a hair dryer. Therefore, it is recommended that a silicone hat should be worn and girls with long hair should wear their hair tied up for the day.
- Deodorants must not be brought to the pool as the dressing rooms are confined spaces and they leave a strong smell.
- All items brought to the pool should be clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Mobile phones and cameras are forbidden to be used in the swimming pool premises by both adults and children for child protection reasons.
- The school does not accept liability for any lost property at the swimming pool.

Health and Safety



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- 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 endeavour to obey the instructor's 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.
- Teachers 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. Both a male and female teacher will accompany the children to swimming lessons.
- The permission from parents to the school to let children go swimming is covered in the Annual Consent Form in the Private and Confidential form.
- The pool will be provided with information regarding any child with a Special Educational Need, physical disability or medical diagnosis that may compromise their safety at swimming, eg. Epilepsy.

Special Needs Pupils

- The SNA's are required to assist the Special Needs pupils to undress and dress before and after swimming lessons in the Aquatic Centre Swimming Pool. They should also assist the child to enter and exit the pool and be available at all times during the swimming lesson to take the child from the swimming instructor if he/she was no longer taking part in the lesson.
- The SNA's are not required to enter the water with the child. They do not have sufficient training to do so. It is the responsibility of the instructor, be it an individual or group instructor to teach the special needs pupil their swimming lessons. It is the decision of the swimming pool whether or not the pupil is capable of being in a group swimming situation or an individual one. This depends on the ability of the individual child in the water. If the child is required to have an individual instructor the cost is incurred by the parent/guardian. This decision may be reached before or after the child's first lesson in the pool.



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Monitoring / Evaluation / Review:

Swimming lessons are organised by the P.E co-ordinator at St. Luke's N.S in collaboration with the 3rd class teachers.

Policy is revised annually or at other times if deemed necessary. This policy was created in January 2022 (updated January 2023).