



## **GLENGARRIFF NATIONAL SCHOOL**

*Scoil Fhiachna*

**GLENGARRIFF**

*Co Cork*

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### **Swimming Policy**

#### **Aims/Purposes**

- To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming skills while they are at Scoil Fhiachna
- 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 each child to get the opportunity to attend swimming lessons as part of their primary school education.

#### **Procedures Guidelines**

- Each pupil will attend a 4-6-week session in a swimming pool at least twice in their time in Scoil Fhiachna. Parents/guardians receive written communication providing information on the swimming course.
- The swimming pool at will be reserved for this purpose or fifth & sixth classes will partake in sea swimming course with WSI Swim Instructor.
- Every pupil from second to sixth classes is required to participate in this course unless medical/professional advice or parental instruction directs otherwise.
- Pupils who do not attend the course remain in school under the supervision of a member of the teaching staff and complete work assigned by their class teacher.
- Costs incurred by hiring of pool, payment of instructors and transport 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.

#### **Instructional Arrangements**

- Ms Dineen and Michelle school secretary will organize the swimming programme and bus transportation.

- Instruction in the pool will be provided by the pool instructors.

### **Travel and Supervision Arrangements**

- Teachers accompany and supervise pupils on the bus journey to and from the pool.
- Pupils will be accompanied by and supervised by a class teacher on the way to and from the pool.
- Teachers are present in the dressing rooms before and after the swimming lesson.
- Teachers 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.
- Should a pupil be collected by a parent after the swimming lesson, the supervising teacher must be personally informed of such arrangements.

### **Swimming Guidelines**

- Parents/guardians will receive a standard letter providing information on school swimming before their child starts their 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.
- 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.
- 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 and he/she will travel with the class to the pool and remain under the supervision of the class teacher for the duration of the lesson. No refund for missed swim lessons will be made.
- Each child must have their own togs (without pockets), towel, hair brush and swim cap. All items brought to the pool in a bag with a secure zip or other fastening device and should be clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Swimming caps must be worn in the pool at all times
- 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.

- Pupils are not permitted to bring deodorants to the pool as the dressing rooms are confined spaces and they leave a strong smell.
- Pupils are not permitted to bring jewellery (stud ear-rings, watches) or money to the pool.
- Mobile phones and cameras are forbidden to be used in the swimming pool premises by both adults and children for child protection reasons.
- The following are not permitted at any time:
  - \*running on the pool deck
  - \*pushing, pulling or offensive behaviour
  - \*jumping/diving into the pool
  - \*ducking or fighting in the water
- Pupils must not enter the water until told to do so by an instructor. Once in the water, they are not allowed to leave without permission.
- Pupils must pay attention to the instructor's orders at all times and comply with the school's Code of Behaviour.
- Pupils should at all times respond to instructions given by lifeguards on duty.

### **Health and Safety**

- The Health and Safety Guidelines outlined by the pool authorities will be strictly adhered to. While in the pool, pupils must endeavour to obey the instructor's orders at all times and comply with Scoil Fhiachna's Code of Behaviour.
- 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 as well as Scoil Fhiachna's Child Safeguarding Statement. Staff will follow the guidelines of our own Health & Safety Statement and Child Safeguarding Statement at all times. In the female dressing room school staff will supervise the children. One adult will not be supervising the children on their own at any time. In the male dressing room, a male teacher and a member of school staff will supervise. Children from 2<sup>nd</sup> class up should not require assistance (excluding children with special needs)

### **Special Needs Pupils**

- The SNA's are required to assist the Special Needs pupils to undress and dress before and after swimming lessons. 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.
- In relation to school tours, where classes are visiting a swimming pool or a water area e.g. an adventure park the same procedures apply. SNA's are not required to enter the water with the special need's pupil. If the parent/guardian feels that their child needs individual assistance in the water, a staff member from the given establishment may be employed and the cost of same is incurred by the parent/guardian of the child.

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

This policy will be reviewed prior to the commencement of the aquatics programme of instruction. The effectiveness of its implementation will be monitored during this period.

#### **Ratification**

This policy was circulated and communicated to members of the school community following its ratification by the Board of Management (BoM).

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Date \_\_\_\_\_