

Scoil Mhuire  
Droichead an Chláirín  
Co. na Gaillimhe  
H91D7P3



Scoil Mhuire  
Clarinbridge  
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H91D7P3

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## Swimming Policy

### Aims

- To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming skills while they are at Scoil Mhuire Clarinbridge.
- To comply with the requirements of the Revised Curriculum in aquatics.
- To provide clarity of rules and responsibilities.

### Rationale

The school has regard to both the physical and mental development of each of its pupils. Being able to swim is an invaluable life skill that will support the child's safety around water throughout their lifetime. Believing that a healthy body promotes a healthy mind, the school arranges for a 6 week course of swimming instruction in Kilcornan swimming pool for each of its students in 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> classes during the school year. This swimming policy has come about due to the result of a parent questionnaire in Term 3 of 2023, where the majority of parents expressed an interest in annual swimming lessons for their children.

### Swimming Lessons: Guidelines

- Each pupil will attend a term of swimming lessons annually from 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6th class.
- The swimming pool is reserved from 10am - 2pm once a week for 6 weeks during the swimming term.
- Parents defray the cost of the course and also that of the transport to and from the pool. Inability to pay will not preclude a pupil from participating fully in swimming lessons.
- If for some reason a child needs to be collected from the swimming pool by a parent, the class teacher must be informed on Aladdin.
- Pupils attend the term's lessons together and are accompanied by and supervised by class teachers on the way to and from the pool.
- Pupils will travel by bus to the pool and the class teachers will provide supervision before and after the swimming lesson.
- Children will put their dry clothes in an available space before they enter the swimming pool area.
- The teacher remains poolside at all times during the lesson and supervises children going to the toilet from the poolside toilet entrance.
- Swim teachers are responsible for allocating the children to the different levels of swimmers, spread out over various sections of the pools.
- All children attending the course should wear their tracksuit. It is suggested that swimming togs 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).
- Time is limited so no toiletries are permitted.
- There is not enough time to fully dry children's hair with a hair dryer. Therefore a silicone hat is recommended to be worn (as per policy of swimming pool) and pupils with long hair should wear their hair tied up for the day.

- Only roll on deodorants are permitted as the dressing rooms are confined spaces which is not ideal for aerosol usage.
- All items brought to the pool should be clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Use of mobile phones and cameras are forbidden in the swimming pool premises by both adults and children for child protection reasons as per school and swimming pool policy.

### **Instructional Arrangements**

- Instruction in the pool will be provided by qualified pool instructors who are Garda Vetted.
- Instructors will, at all times, work under the supervision of the class teacher.
- If a child is not following the instructions given by the instructor he/she can request that the child has to leave the pool and the class teacher will have to take the responsibility to monitor this child.
- Instructors should have a recognised qualification in the activity they are to deliver.
- Coaches and instructors should have appropriate experience of working with young people.

### **Special Needs Pupils**

The SNA's may be required to assist pupils with additional needs before and after swimming lessons under the supervision of the class teacher. They should also assist the child to enter and exit the pool if needed and be available at all times during the swimming lesson to take the child from the swimming instructor if he / she is no longer taking part in the lesson.

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 in coherence with School Tour Policy.

### **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 and Safety Statement and Child Protection Policy at all times.

### **At the Pool**

- In the female and male dressing rooms school staff will supervise the children from the **entrance of the main dressing room.**
- All children will line up in **the entrance foyer** and leave the building together.
- A child that needs assistance should present themselves to the staff member at the dressing room entrance.
- 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's Code of Behaviour and the pool's Health and Safety Guidelines.
- 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.
- At no time should a member of the public be present in the dressing room during a school session. School staff will report to the pool staff immediately should this occur.
- Teachers of all classes remain poolside during the lesson in order to supervise the overall group and pupils who may need to use the bathroom or need their attention during the lesson.
- Where medical assistance is required, the class teacher will assist the swimming pool instructor and monitor poolside.

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.

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**Swimming is a compulsory facet of the Primary School Curriculum. Attendance at swimming lessons fulfils the Aquatics Module of the Physical Education Curriculum as laid down by the Department of Education.**

If you opt for your child NOT to attend swimming lessons we have limited options for supervision for your child while their class is attending instruction in Kilcornan pool.

These options are:

1. Stay with the class teacher and go to the pool but not attend the lesson. Parents defray the cost of the bus for 6 lessons which is €21.
2. Get picked up by a parent/guardian for the duration of the lesson. Your child's class teacher can tell you the time for pick up/return.
3. Your child can sit in the Junior Infant room with some reading/writing activities for the duration of the lesson.

Please note that our swimming policy is reviewed annually and the above options **may not apply next year.**

### **Ratification and Communication**

This policy will be in operation in the school year 2023/2024, having been ratified by Staff and BOM. Every teacher will be provided with a copy of this policy for their files.

Date of next policy review:

Signed on Behalf of the Board of Management:

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_