



# Scoil Mhuire

## Swimming Policy for Scoil Mhuire, Shankill

### Aims/Purposes

- To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming skills
- To comply with the requirements of the Revised Curriculum in aquatics.

### Rationale

- The school has regard for the physical, mental and holistic wellbeing and development of each of its pupils. Believing that a healthy body promotes a healthy mind, the school arranges for three terms of 8 weeks of swimming instruction in Monkstown Leisure Centre for pupils in 3rd and 4<sup>th</sup> class

### Procedures Guidelines

- Each pupil will attend at least one 8 week term of swimming pool in 3rd and 4th class
- 50 children will participate each term and places will be allocated on a first come first serve basis
- Pupil who did not attend term 1 will be offered a place and prioritised for term 2
- The lessons will take place in Monkstown Leisure Centre
- Attendance at this course fulfills the Aquatics Module of the PE Curriculum as laid down by the Department of Education and parents defray the cost of the course and also that of the transport to and from the pool.
- All children are encouraged to participate in aquatics lessons as part of the National Curriculum.
- Pupils will be accompanied by and supervised by class teachers on the way to and from the pool. Pupils will travel by coach to the pool and 3 class teachers will provide supervision before and after the swimming lesson. Additional supervision will be provided by 1 SNA and 2 Garda vetted parents.
- All children attending swimming lessons 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, towel, shower gel, hair brush and swim cap, all of which must also be marked.

### 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 & 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.

- The school will treat all pupils fairly and with respect for their privacy and dignity
- Teachers of all classes 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.
- The permission from parents to the school to let children go swimming is covered in the Annual swimming and consent and permission slip.
- 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
- A roll will be called before leaving the school premises and before boarding the bus to leave the swimming facility

#### At the pool and in the changing rooms

- It is expected that all children who participate in the swimming program are able to change into their togs, dry themselves and dress themselves without help
- Teachers and SNA will be the only people permitted in the change room
- Pupils who need assistance getting changed will require their parent/guardian to be present.
- It is necessary for parents who assist and accompany a child with needs to be Garda vetted. They will change only their own child and assist no other children in an individual changing cubicle
- SNAs assisting children with additional or special needs to dress will leave the cubicle door open and be observed by another teacher
- Teachers should be vigilant – if they decide to help a child do not do so without another teacher observing and the cubicle door open.
- Change rooms are communal approx. 30 individual cubicles and several large group cubicles for approx. 5 per cubicle.
- Doors should remain slightly open in group cubicles.
- Where possible, female staff should supervise girls and male staff should supervise boys.
- Where possible boys should be brought to one side of the change room and girls to the other
- If there is a need for an adult to enter a cubicle, the pupils will be alerted to this by announcing it to give pupils the opportunity to cover up if they want to
- Pupils should know that adults will enter the room if necessary - in response to a disturbance or request, for example.
- One teacher should remain behind in the changing room until the last child has left.
- When leaving after swim, One teacher will need to be outside the changing room for those who have finished changing. This teacher will supervise the line in reception.
- Teachers should do a final sweep of the change rooms before they leave to go home to insure nothing is left behind.

This policy was ratified by the Board Of Management on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

Signed: **Br Phil Ryan cfc**  
Chairperson B.O.M.