



Swimming Policy Autism Class

1. Rationale

Swimming is part of the *Aquatics* strand of the Primary Physical Education Curriculum.

It promotes confidence, safety, and enjoyment in the water, and is an important life skill for all pupils.

This policy sets out the procedures for organising and supervising swimming lessons in a safe, inclusive, and consistent way.

2. Aims

- To give pupils opportunities to develop swimming and water safety skills.
- To build confidence, coordination, and independence in the water.
- To ensure inclusion of all pupils, with appropriate support where needed.
- To maintain the highest standards of safety and supervision during lessons.
- To ensure clear communication between school, parents, and swimming facility staff.

3. Organisation

- **Venue:** Pillo Hotel Leisure Centre, Ashbourne, Co. Meath.
- **Frequency:** Lessons are arranged in blocks, usually one lesson per week for 6 weeks during the school year.
- **Duration:** Each session lasts approximately 1 hour including changing time.
- **Transport:** Pupils and staff travel to and from the pool by hired bus .
- **Supervision Ratio:**
 - Class teacher and SNAs accompany the pupils at all times.
 - The pool provides qualified swimming instructors and lifeguards.
 - Two school staff members enter the pool with the children each week to provide safety, reassurance, and physical support under the direction of the instructors as required by the venue .
 - The remaining staff supervise the changing areas and poolside.

4 Additional Support

- Pupils who need help with changing will be assisted discreetly by their SNA or designated staff member.
- Staff provide reassurance and structure for children who may find the pool environment challenging (e.g., sensory sensitivities, noise, temperature).
- Reasonable adaptations are made to meet each child's needs, including use of visual supports, extra time for transitions, or smaller group instruction if necessary.



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5. Cost and Funding

- Swimming lessons are partly funded through **school fundraising initiatives**.
- Parents may be asked for a contribution to cover remaining costs (pool hire, instructors, and transport).
- No pupil will be excluded from participating due to financial circumstances.

6. Safety and Behaviour

- All lessons are delivered by qualified swimming instructors, with lifeguards on duty at all times.
- Pupils must follow the instructions of pool staff and teachers.
- Teachers and SNAs supervise changing areas and poolside at all times.
- Staff ensure privacy and dignity are respected when assisting children with changing.
- A minimum of two staff member will assist and supervise in the changing rooms at all times.
- Pupils are expected to behave responsibly in the changing rooms, on the pool deck, and in the water.
- Any medical needs (e.g., inhalers, epipens) are carried by staff to the pool.
- Class teacher will keep a record of staff attending swimming lessons each week.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Principal:** Oversees implementation of the policy and ensures insurance and risk assessment requirements are met.
- **Class Teacher:** Organises lessons, supervises pupils, maintains attendance and safety checks.
- **SNAs:** Support individual pupils with changing, transitions, and reassurance as required.
- **Parents:** Provide consent, payment (if applicable), and required gear.
- **Pool Staff:** Deliver instruction and ensure water safety standards are followed.

8. Child Protection

All staff adhere to the school's *Child Protection Policy* and *Child Safeguarding Statement*. Supervision in changing areas is managed carefully to ensure both safety and privacy.

9. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years, or sooner if circumstances change (e.g., venue requirements, insurance, or updated guidance).

Feedback from staff, parents, and pupils will inform any revisions.



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Ratified by the Board of Management: November 2025

Date: _____

Signed: _____ (Chairperson, Board of Management)