



Ballygiblin National School

Swimming Lessons Policy

Aims

- To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming and water safety skills as part of the Primary Physical Education Curriculum.
 - To support pupils' physical, social, and emotional development through aquatics.
 - To comply with the requirements of the Primary PE Curriculum (Aquatics Strand).
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Rationale

Ballygiblin National School recognises that swimming is a vital life skill that contributes to children's health, safety, fitness, and enjoyment. Swimming lessons provide opportunities for:

- Social interaction.
 - Sensory stimulation.
 - Spatial awareness and motor coordination.
 - Developing confidence and independence.
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Swimming Guidelines

- Pupils from 1st–6th classes will attend a 6-week swimming block annually.
- Lessons take place in Fermoy Leisure Centre, lasting approximately 45 minutes.
- Participation is strongly encouraged in line with the curriculum. Parents who wish to withdraw their child must notify the principal in writing.
- If a child cannot attend due to illness, a note should be provided to the class teacher or on Aladdin.
- Children unable to participate will remain supervised in another class. As teachers will be accompanying the group, additional work will not be provided for pupils who do not take part. Pupils will be expected to engage independently during this time.
- Pupils will travel by bus and be supervised by two staff members before, during, and after the lessons.
- Children should wear their school tracksuit, with swimwear ideally worn underneath on the morning of lessons.
- Each child must have:
 - A suitable bag with secure fastening.
 - A silicone swim hat (recommended).
 - Goggles.

- Flip flops or pool shoes for hygiene.
 - A towel.
 - All items clearly labelled.
 - For hygiene reasons, no food or snacks are allowed in the facility.
 - Due to time constraints, children will quickly rinse after lessons but full showering and hair washing should be completed at home.
 - Long hair should be tied up.
 - Deodorants and aerosol sprays must not be brought to the pool.
 - Mobile phones, cameras, and recording devices are strictly prohibited.
 - No unauthorised adults may access the pool or changing areas.
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Supervision and Child Protection

- Two staff members must supervise at all times.
 - Supervision in changing areas will be carried out as follows:
 - Male staff supervise boys only.
 - Female staff may supervise both boys and girls if needed.
 - Staff supervise primarily from the corridor outside cubicles.
 - The school's Child Safeguarding Statement applies throughout.
 - All pupils are expected to behave safely and respectfully, in line with the school's Code of Behaviour and the pool's regulations.
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Pupils with Additional Needs

- An SNA may assist a child with entering and exiting the pool and be present poolside to support as needed.
 - SNAs are not generally required to enter the water, and this decision rests with the swimming pool management in consultation with the school and parents.
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Health and Safety

- Best practice guidelines of the Irish Sports Council, Swim Ireland, and National Safety Council will be followed.
 - Parents/guardians must complete a swimming consent and medical declaration before the start of lessons.
 - It is the duty of parents/guardians to inform the school of any health conditions that could affect their child in the pool. This information will be treated confidentially and shared only as necessary.
 - In the event of a medical issue or injury during swimming, staff will:
 - Provide appropriate first aid.
 - Contact parents/guardians as soon as possible.
 - Arrange further care if required.
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Insurance

All swimming activities and transport are covered under the school's pupil insurance policy.

Communication with Parents

- Parents will receive a standard letter each year outlining the swimming arrangements.
- Fees for lessons will be paid via Aladdin prior to commencement.

Implementation and Review

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management every three years.

It has been communicated to all staff and the parent body. It is available for the wider school community on our school website.

Signatures

	
<i>John O'Brien</i>	<i>David Hyland</i>
<i>Chairperson BOM</i>	<i>Principal</i>
<i>Date:</i>	<i>Date:</i>