

POLICY ON SWIMMING

Aims/Purposes

- To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming skills while they are at Scoil Mhuire Naofa, Rathfeigh.
- To comply with the requirements of the Revised Curriculum in aquatics.

Rationale

Believing that a healthy body promotes a healthy mind, the school arranges for a six week course of swimming instruction in the Aura Swimming Pool in Navan for first to sixth class pupils during the school year. **Attendance at this course fulfils 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. Inability to pay will not preclude a pupil from participating in swimming lessons.

Procedures Guidelines

- Each pupil will attend a 6 week session in the swimming pool annually from 1st – 6th class. Most classes will take place on Wednesday afternoons but occasionally on Monday afternoons.
- The Aura Swimming Pool in Navan has been reserved for six weeks for each class grouping.
- Costs incurred by hiring of pool, and payment of instructors necessitate a charge being imposed on each pupil. There will be an additional payment for the bus. Inability to pay will not preclude a pupil from participating fully in swimming classes.
- **All children must participate in aquatics lessons as part of the National Curriculum.** If a child is unable to participate in aquatics a letter must be written to the Board of Management requesting an exemption. If a child is unwell on the day of the swimming lesson he/she may remain in school under the supervision of another class teacher. Pupils will be accompanied by and supervised by a staff teacher on the way to the pool from the school. Pupils will travel by bus to the pool and the staff teacher will provide supervision before and after the swimming lesson. In the event that a child is to be collected from the pool by a parent/guardian, a letter/note must be sent to inform the class teacher.
- All children attending the course should wear their tracksuit. Each child must have a suitable bag to carry his/her swimming gear.
- Senior children are expected to dress and undress themselves at the pool.
- When a junior class is going swimming a number of parents are requested to accompany teachers and pupils to the pool to help with supervision. These parents/guardians must be garda vetted. If a parent/guardian feels that their child needs additional assistance to dress/undress the parent/guardian must be present to assist the child.
- Teachers will follow the guidelines of our own Health and Safety and Child Protection policies at all times.
- All items brought to the pool must be clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Each child must have their own togs(without pockets), towel, hair brush and swim cap.
- Teachers of all classes should remain at the pool side during the lessons in order to supervise the overall group and pupils who may need to use the toilets during the lesson.

- No food or beverages are allowed to be brought to the swimming lessons. Children can have a snack and/or drink when they return to the school after the swimming lesson.

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.

Pupils are required to behave at all times in a manner that ensures the safety of all involved in school swimming. While in the pool, pupils must endeavour to obey the instructor's orders at all times and comply with the School Code of Conduct.

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.

The permission from parents/guardians to let children go swimming is covered in the Parental Permission Form given to parents/guardians at the start of each school year.

Monitoring / Evaluation / Review:

Policy is revised annually or at other times if deemed necessary.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Scoil Mhuire Naofa, Rathfeigh on the 6th March, 2017.

Chairman Board of Management

Principal

Date:_____

Date:_____