



Lucan Educate Together N.S.

Swimming Policy

1. Overview & Aims

This policy sets out the procedures in place in Lucan ETNS, to ensure the safety and well-being of students in Second, Third and Fourth Class, as well as, associated staff while attending swimming lessons.

Aquatics is a strand of the Physical Education programme which promotes the social, physical and mental development of students. Provision of swimming lessons meets the requirements of the revised curriculum in aquatics. Each student will attend a 5/6 week block annually in 2nd, 3rd and 4th Class. Swimming lessons take place in Tallaght Sports Complex.

The Swimming Policy aims:

- To enable students to acquire basic swimming skills while they are attending Lucan ETNS.
- To ensure child protection and the dignity of children in a vulnerable situation.
- To provide clarity on procedures, roles and responsibilities.

2. Instructional Arrangements

The School Principal, ISM & School Secretary will organise the school swimming programme for all classes participating. Instruction in the pool will be provided by qualified instructors at Tallaght Sports Complex.

The School Secretary will have the responsibility for costing the programme, booking the facility and transport to and from the venue. The School Secretary will produce the costs per class and keep records of all monies received to cover costs incurred by the school.

3. Travel & Supervision Arrangements

Students will be accompanied by and supervised by the class teachers for each class and supported by related staff on the journey to and from the pool. A student/adult ratio of 15:1 minimum will be maintained.

Parent volunteers may be requested to support the supervision of students, in this case the parent volunteer must be Garda vetted specifically for this purpose.

The inclusion of students with additional needs and those associated with an ASD class will be reviewed annually. Supervision of these children will be determined on an individual basis, however, the minimum student/adult ratio for these students is set at 2:1.

4. Health & 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.

Students are required to behave at all times in a manner that ensures the safety of all involved in school swimming. If not, they will not be able to attend future lessons. Expectations are communicated prior to the swimming lessons commencing and any misbehaviour following on from this does not receive a warning but an immediate consequence.

Parents/Guardians will receive a standard letter providing information on school swimming before their child starts their swimming lessons. 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's participation.

All school staff will follow the guidelines of our own Health and Safety policy, as well as, Child Safeguarding Statement at all times. Staff who are supervising are expected to communicate any concerns regarding health and safety of the pupils to the swimming pool instructors and site staff, as well as, school management. Staff will take a First Aid bag from the school while attending swimming lessons.

5. Participation

All students are expected to participate in swimming lessons. Should a student be unable to attend swimming due to a medical condition, a letter must be provided to the school explaining this.

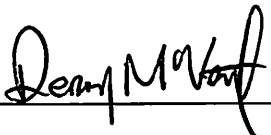
6. Guidelines

- All students attending should wear clothing which they can manage themselves. Swimming togs may be worn under clothing coming to school. Each student must have a suitable bag to carry their swimming gear such as a sports bag or similar type bag with a secure zip or other fastening.
- Generally, students from 2nd to 4th class will have sufficiently developed personal care skills to manage changing/dressing independently. Students with additional needs and who have been granted access to an ANA, will be assisted by the ANA.
- Teachers and ANA's are not required to enter the water with the children. It is the responsibility of the instructor to teach the pupils during swimming lessons.
- Staff/volunteers should always be accompanied by another staff member during supervision. Staff/volunteers should never be left in sole care of students at any point.
- All items brought to the swimming pool should be clearly labelled with the child's name. Each child must have their own togs, towel, hairbrush (if necessary) swim cap and goggles, all of which should be marked.
- No toiletries or use of hairdryers is permitted. Children are not allowed to bring money or make any purchases at vending machines before/after the swimming lesson.
- Students must endeavour to follow the instructor's directions at all times and comply with the School Code of Behaviour.

- School staff/volunteers will remain at the poolside during the lesson in order to supervise the overall group.
- Students are encouraged to 'rinse off' after swimming to avoid any possible skin irritation when they exit the pool.
- Students will use the assigned changing rooms at Tallaght Sports Complex, these changing rooms are a shared space and staff/volunteers should be aware that the changing rooms may be used by third parties. Dividing curtains should be in place where available in such instances.

7. Monitoring/Evaluation/Review

The Swimming Policy is revised annually or at other times if deemed necessary. This Policy was last reviewed in March 2024.

Signed:  _____

(Derry McVeigh, Chairperson of Board of Management)

Signed:  _____

(Ultan Casey, Principal)

Date: 20-3-2024

Date of next review: March 2025