



Head of School: Mr P. Coiffait

School Policy

Swimming Policy

Co-ordinator: Debbie Fitton

To be reviewed on:

Governors adopted this policy on:

Signed by the Chair:



Learning Together

Learning for All

Learning for Life



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Hawthorns School Swimming Policy

At Hawthorns School we aim to ensure that all our pupils are given the opportunity to learn to swim in order for them to try to become competent, confident swimmers with a strong desire to continue swimming and maintain a healthy life-style in later life.

Objectives

- to enable children to develop and explore physical skills with increasing control and coordination;
- to encourage children to work and play with others in a range of group situations;
- to develop the way in which children perform skills, and apply rules and conventions, for different water based activities;
- to enable all children to feel confident in water and to recognise and describe how their bodies feel during swimming

Swimming is one of the few recreational or teaching activities which also carries with it the evident hazards of death through drowning or injury by brain damage through near drowning. The teaching and learning of swimming and water safety therefore requires the utmost care on the part of all concerned.

Health and Safety and Safeguarding

Our school has a responsibility to ensure that it acts to safeguard staff and pupils. All staff supervising swimming must follow the normal school Safeguarding and Child protection procedures. Although lessons are delivered by an external provider, the school retains duty of care over the pupils. School staff will remain by the poolside at all times to assist, even where a specialist teacher is leading the lesson.

We should be aware of:

- the Risk Assessment for the pool and session used and the Normal Operating Procedure
- Children must use the toilet and shower before entering the pool
- the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) It is the responsibility of the swimming instructor and facility staff to deal with an emergency situation and school staff must follow procedures to ensure safety of the children. In the event of an incident, the swimming instructor responsible for the group will give three blasts on the whistle and enter the water if necessary. It is then the responsibility of the second swimming instructor and the class teacher to hit the drowning alarm and to clear the pool. If the situation is serious, the class teacher will be expected to guide the remainder of the class to the changing areas and to let the pool staff deal with the situation.
- conditions of hire - if relevant
- pool rules -no children will be allowed in the pool area unless under the direct supervision of a member of staff
- No child should swim if they feel unwell
- Service Managers will be informed immediately of any serious incident and parents/carers contacted
- Accident report forms will be completed for ALL incidents and signed by both the class teacher and the swimming instructor.
- Informing pool staff of any special needs or medical conditions of pupils. Contact details and medical bag must be brought on to the poolside.
- staff are not allowed to take photos of children in the pool
- Mobile phones must not be used on the poolside

This policy should be read in conjunction with Active Tameside School Swimming Guidelines

Teaching and learning

We use a variety of teaching and learning styles in swimming lessons. Our principal aim is to develop the children's knowledge, skills and understanding, and we do this through a mixture of whole-class teaching and individual or group activities. Teachers draw attention to good examples of individual performance as models for the other children, and we encourage the children to evaluate their own work as well as the work of other children. Within lessons, we give the children the opportunity both to collaborate and to compete with each other, and they have the opportunity to use a wide range of resources.

Aim

The government target for school swimming is: By year 6 all pupils should be able to swim at least 25 metres unaided. This may not be possible for all pupils due to medical and physical needs however Hawthorns aims to provide children with basic skills to feel confident and move in water and to make children confident swimmers where possible.

National Curriculum

The syllabus is based around pupils attaining the National Curriculum for Key Stage 2 with the provision to exceed this requirement where the children are capable. All children will be taught about health, hygiene and water safety as part of the syllabus.

All swimming instructors delivering National Curriculum will record the children's results, a summary of which will be sent to school electronically each half term.

Key Stage 1. Pupils should be taught to:

- Move in water using swimming aids and support,
- Float and move with and without swimming aids,
- Propel themselves in water using different swimming aids, arms and leg actions and basic strokes.

Key Stage 2. Pupils should be taught to:

- Pace themselves in floating and swimming challenges related to speed, distance and personal survival,
- Swim unaided for a sustained period of time over a distance of 25 metres,
- Use recognised arm and leg actions, lying on their front and back,
- Use a range of recognised strokes and personal survival skills (front crawl, back crawl, breaststroke, sculling, floating and surface diving)

Planning for swimming

Active Tameside normally only offer swimming sessions for Year 3 and above. However due to the needs of our children it is thought to be beneficial for most classes to have sessions at Denton Baths where possible. Priority will be given to KS2 age children who will have two half-term 6 week blocks of swimming each year. This ensures that skills can be built on and children are provided with an opportunity they may not otherwise experience. Two classes go swimming together at one time. Younger children use the small pool, older children the shallow end of the main pool. Some children may be taught in the deep end with a qualified instructor, depending on ability. Swimming takes place

on a Tuesday afternoon. The pool session is 1.40 to 2.20 pm. Children are transported with their class teacher by minibus at 1.15 pm and return by 3.00pm.

Staff to pupil ratios

Active Tameside request the following staffing for pupils with SEN.

Years 1, 2 3 1:2* pupils

Years 4,5,6 1:4* pupils

High ratios of staff to children are vital and we work closely with the baths staff to ensure staffing levels are adequate. Ratios will depend on the individual needs of pupils. Children with medical conditions may need 1-1 supervision. Individual risk assessments must be considered to ensure safety for all pupils.

Swimwear, Goggles, Jewellery and Swim hats

- Swimwear should be a one-piece costume for girls and swimming trunks for boys. Swimming shorts that are lined and not below mid-thigh in length that do not hamper swimming development may also be worn. Unlined and Bermuda type fashion shorts are not appropriate for school swimming sessions. School has spare towels and swimwear if needed.
- Any child who wears nappies during the day must wear a swim nappy in the pool. It is the responsibility of parents to provide a swim nappy for each lesson. Spares are available in school if needed.
- Children's religious and cultural needs will be taken into consideration during school swimming sessions. Tight leggings and tops worn over the top of swimming costumes are acceptable swimwear under these circumstances.
- No Goggles allowed unless for specific medical reasons due to the high numbers of children and consequent potential for accidents. A permission slip must be completed for any child who needs to wear goggles.
- No Jewellery and watches to be worn. Earring studs may be worn, but must be covered by a swimming hat. Active Tameside does not accept any responsibility for loss or damage to jewellery bought to school swimming sessions.
- Long hair can cause problems whilst in swimming lesson which can hinder a child's development within the sport. As a minimum, long hair must be tied back but we would recommend that children with long hair wear a swimming hat.

Role of the Swimming Coordinator

Hawthorns School has a suitably qualified member of staff who is the swimming coordinator and the PE coordinator works closely with her to monitor organisation and safety. The swimming coordinator is responsible for:

- applying the swimming pool safety policy and procedures
- liaising with Tameside staff
- completing appropriate risks assessments on the school Evolve system
- ensuring all school and pool safeguarding procedures are followed

- considering the medical needs and individual risk assessments of pupils when organising the group
- pool safety operation procedures (Normal Operating Procedures & Emergency Procedures)
- ensuring school staff follow rules and procedures and are happy with arrangements for their class
- arrangements for use of the pool and changing rooms
- providing a register and information for swimming staff about medical and other needs of the children
- supporting with monitoring and assessment of pupils

Role of class staff

Class staff must wear pumps/trainers on the poolside and suitable swimwear in the water. They are responsible for

- transport arrangements from school to the baths
- ensuring children have swimming kit and are suitably prepared for swimming- no jewellery, hair tied up
- medical needs of the children. Some children may require 1-1 supervision e.g. epilepsy,
- appropriate supervision of changing rooms and on the poolside
- supporting children in the water and from the side where necessary –ensure support staff have clear roles and responsibilities to ensure safety of children. Symbols must be used.
- reinforcing pool rules, behaviour and safety on the poolside
- toileting children during the course of a lesson
- making pool staff aware of medical and behaviour needs of the children

Class staff should accompany their class to swimming as they have the best knowledge of their needs.

Role of other adults

Other adults and volunteers are also essential to support the delivery of swimming. These adults must be CRB/ List 99 checked

They can:

- support and work beside class staff in the water or on the poolside
- supervise changing in the presence of class staff
- look after any children who become unwell or children who need to be on the poolside for any reason.

Role of Tameside Swimming Staff

Pool staff are responsible for:

- Delivering the National Curriculum for swimming
- Encouraging all children to have fun and feel confident in the water
- Ensuring children wear suitable buoyancy aids
- Liaising with school staff about medical and other needs of the children
- Enforcing pool rules
- Dealing with emergencies in the water: pool staff will make 3 blasts on a whistle and enter water if necessary. A drowning alarm will also sound and pool and class staff must clear the pool
- Ensuring staff and children are aware of emergency procedures
- Completing accident forms

- Duty of care for the children from the moment they step on to the poolside until the lesson is dismissed
- Ensuring school staff know what is expected of them during the lesson
- Ensuring that a member of their staff holds a lifeguard qualification and suitable swimming teacher qualifications

Changing arrangements

The swimming coordinator will organise changing arrangements and staffing. Swimming pool staff are not allowed to supervise changing. There may be members of the public in the changing rooms at the same time as the children. Class staff should be aware of this, supervise children accordingly and be vigilant re safeguarding.

- If children are using a mixed sex changing area with cubicles, then a member of staff of either gender may supervise.
- If using open-plan single-sex changing areas then only staff of the appropriate gender should enter the changing room, unless there is only one gender of staff available.
- If children under the age of seven are swimming, a mixed gender group may use an open-plan single-sex changing room
- All children are encouraged to change independently and to leave clothes neatly, but school staff will support where needed

Using pools on Educational Visits

- Where the school uses swimming pools as part of an educational visit the above conditions should still be applied.
- Use is likely to be of a recreational nature. A qualified lifeguard must be on duty and teachers must work with the lifeguard to supervise the session. They should actively work together as part of a team safeguarding all the children.
- Permission must be sought from parents and a risk assessment completed

Diving

Additional hazards are created when swimmers are allowed to dive into the pool. These need to be carefully monitored

- teaching diving should only be undertaken by a specialist teacher
- no diving shall be permitted in less than 1.5 metres of water depth or with less than 7.6m forward clearance
- only very flat horizontal dives should be permitted

Monitoring, Assessment and Evaluation.

The class teacher, in discussion with pool staff, regularly monitors and assesses the children to establish progress. Children can earn distance badges and general certificates for specific/general skills. Progress is recorded by Tameside staff at the end of a 6-week block and the class teacher.

transfers this to New Bridge Dashboard. The coordinator works closely with pool staff to ensure the needs of the children are being met. The number of Year 6 pupils who can swim 25m must be reported annually on the school website and as part of the Sport Premium report.

Equal Opportunities

Every child has the right to experience swimming lessons irrespective of gender, racial, cultural, intellectual or physical differences.

Gifted & Talented

Differentiated swimming groups will allow talented swimmers to swim at their own ability level and instructors will provide appropriate challenges. The Amateur Swimming Association will provide a framework and programme for these children.

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years. It should be read in conjunction with other key policies –Safeguarding, Educational Visits, Behaviour, Physical Handling as well as Active Tameside Swimming Guidelines.

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