



## **Swimming Policy**

### **Rationale:**

The school has regard to both the physical and mental development of each of its pupils. Believing that a healthy body promotes a healthy mind, the school has undertaken to arrange a swimming course for each of its students in Third Class.

### **Aims and Objectives:**

To enable children to acquire basic swimming skills while they are at St Patrick's NS. To comply with the requirements of the school curriculum - attendance at this course fulfills the Aquatics Strand of the PE Curriculum as laid down by the DES.

### **Policy Content**

St Patrick's NS arranges for a course of swimming instruction in Coolmine Swimming Pool for each of its pupils in Third Class during the school year.

Costs incurred eg. hiring of pool, payment of instructors and transport necessitates a charge being imposed. Inability to pay will not preclude a child from participating fully in swimming classes.

If a child is unable to attend the course he/she may remain in the school in another classroom with appropriate work until the return of the class. There may be circumstances, whereby a child may attend without participating in the actual lessons. This is done in consultation with teachers and parents.

As swimming takes place during the school day and is part of the PE curriculum, parents are not expected to attend.

Children are expected to behave in a manner that ensures the safety of all involved. Sanctions, in line with the school's Code of Behaviour will be applied if children misbehave.

The pool will be provided with information regarding any child with a special educational need, physical disability or medical diagnosis that may compromise his/ her safety during swimming lessons.

The Board of Management and staff of St Patrick's NS have a duty of care to all pupils during swimming lessons.

### **Procedures:**

In advance of each set of swimming lessons the PE & Sports Co-ordinator will liaise with the staff in Coolmine Swimming Pool to review logistics and arrangements for the course.

A letter, outlining the swimming programme details will be circulated to parents of children in Third Class in advance of the block of swimming classes. Parents receive a payment request to pre pay for the swimming lessons through our online payment system.

All children attending the course should wear their school tracksuits. Each child will need a suitable



bag to carry his/her swimming gear. Sports bag or similar with secure zip or other fastening is advised.

All items brought to the pool must be clearly labelled with the child's name. This includes the bag, tracksuit, socks, underwear and shoes. No valuables should be brought as all items are the responsibility of the owner.

Each child must have his/her own swimming costume, towel, hair brush and swim cap.

Coolmine operates a 'no cap, no swim' policy.

Children are asked not to wear flip flops at the pool. Pool socks are recommended but not obligatory.

**At the pool:**

Children are expected to change independently and manage their personal belongings.

School staff and garda-vetted parents ONLY will supervise inside the changing area and on the corridors to ensure the safety of all children. Only parents who are Garda vetted and have made arrangements to attend school, may be present inside the changing room. During the lesson, teachers and accompanying adults will observe and supervise the class groups from the deck and an adult will supervise the glass area at reception.

If a child requires the toilet during the lesson they must ask a designated teacher who will ensure they are safely returned to the pool from the changing rooms.

While in the pool, children must endeavour to obey the instructor's orders at all times and comply with the School's Code of Behaviour.

At the end of the lesson, the children exit the pool immediately and safely and return to their changing room.

Children are permitted to have a quick rinse in the shower. There is no facility to dry hair, so children should towel dry their hair adequately.

Children are not permitted to eat or drink while on the bus or in the swimming pool building.


**Accidents:**

In the unlikely event of an accident at the pool, Coolmine Pool procedures will be followed. Parents will be contacted and asked to go to the pool if necessary. Children are covered by the school insurance policy while attending swimming lessons.

**Review:** This policy will be reviewed annually or at other times as deemed necessary.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Management:



Signed: 



Date: 24/3/25