



Policy on Swimming

Bunscoil Bhríde, Rathangan, Co. Kildare

June 2022

Aims/Purposes

- To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming skills while they are at Bunscoil Bhríde
- To comply with the requirements of the Revised Curriculum in aquatics.

Procedures Guidelines

- Each pupil will attend a 6-10 week session in a swimming pool in 2nd, 3rd and 4th class
- The swimming pool at Portarlinton is reserved for this block annually
- Costs incurred by hiring of both the pool and a bus to transport the children to the pool necessitate a charge being imposed on each pupil. The Parents' Association organise an annual fundraiser (the sale of Christmas cards / calendar), from which all proceeds go towards the cost of swimming for the following year. The cost of the swimming is therefore subsidised and parents are required to pay the balance which will vary from year to year. Inability to pay will not preclude a pupil from participating fully in swimming classes.

Instructional Arrangements

- The Principal will organise the swimming programme for 2nd, 3rd and 4th classes
- Instruction in the pool will be provided by the coaches employed by Portarlinton Pool

Travel and Supervision Arrangements

Pupils will be accompanied by and supervised by the class teachers and SNAs (when available) or volunteer parents on the bus and in the pool.

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.

Parents/guardians will receive a standard letter providing information on school swimming before their child starts their swimming term. Parental consent, granting permission for a child to participate in swimming must be completed on the Aladdin app prior to the start of the swimming term.

Where a parent/guardian has a health concern regarding their child's participation in swimming, professional advice must be sought before the child participates in the swimming lesson.

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.

Aerosols must not be brought to the pool as the dressing rooms are confined spaces. The Health and Safety Guidelines outlined by the pool authorities will be strictly adhered to.