



Muire gan Smál

Swimming Policy

Aquatics is an important part of our whole school P.E. programme. We are very fortunate to have a swimming pool in Claremorris- within easy access of our school. The following Swimming Policy was drawn up in consultation with Staff, Parents and Board of Management in January 2005. It was reviewed and ratified by the B.O.M. in March 2009.

Aims of the Policy

To ensure the safety of the children while they attend swimming lessons from school as part of our Aquatics Programme.

- All children from classes second to sixth with parent's permission will have access to swimming lessons in Claremorris Swimming Pool for five/six/seven/eight weeks.
- Written permission will be sought / given by parents.
- Payment for lessons and bus fare will be collected on the day of lessons or parents may wish to pay the full amount in advance.
- The classes will be accompanied by class teacher and S.N.A. (*where applicable*).
- Children will be allowed bring a towel, togs, bathing cap, brush or comb. Crisps, chewing gum, fizzy drinks and mobile phones will not be allowed as this is part of the school Food Policy and Health and Safety Policy. Jewelry and watches should be left at home on swimming days.

Insurance

The children are covered by the school insurance until they reach the pool. The swimming pool insurance covers them when they reach the pool and until they leave it. The school insurance covers them for the journey home.

Rules on Bus

The following procedures will be explained to the children before they depart:

- Children will leave for the pool and return to the school on the organised bus. No exception to this rule.
- They will go to the bus in groups of two.
- They will sit in the same seats going to and coming from the pool.
- The bus will be kept litter free.
- They will leave the bus and return to and from the pool in an orderly fashion.
- They will dress / undress in a mannerly and respectful way both for themselves and others.
- They will shower and go to toilet before going into the pool.
- They will line up at the side of the pool before the lesson.
- At no time while they are in the pool are they to put themselves or others in danger by taking part in any rough or dangerous behaviour.
- After the lessons they will file into the showers, dry themselves and dress quickly.
- A breach of any of the above will mean the loss of a swimming lesson. Parents will be sent a Discipline Note informing them of this decision.

Role of Teacher

- The teacher will collate the number of children going and not going swimming. Teacher will issue school swimming policy to parents of children in the class prior to swimming lessons commencing

and will obtain a written consent on behalf of each child.

- The teacher will have access to a class list with contact numbers with her to the pool. Pool personnel will have access to this list.
- In the event that a child is recovering from illness on the day of swimming and the parents ask that she not go swimming she will remain in the school and be catered for in the adjacent classroom.
- Children who are not given parental permission to avail of the swimming lessons will be catered for in the same way.
- The teacher will supervise the bus journey to the pool and back to the school.
- The teacher will supervise the dressing area.
- The teacher will not help with the drying or dressing of any child

Teachers are required to keep a head count of the children:

- Entering the pool.
- Leaving the pool.
- Leaving the swimming pool building.
- Every effort will be made by Teachers and children to ensure that no property belonging to a child is left in the swimming pool. In the event of property being lost the school will not accept responsibility.

Note on drying and dressing:

It is expected that children from 2nd class up will be able to dry and dress without help. However if a parent feels that her child may need some help with this – she is welcome to come to the pool on swimming day to dress her own child or she may delegate this to another parent. The school must be informed in writing of such an arrangement.

Role of the Swimming Pool

- To provide age appropriate swimming instruction under qualified personnel.
- The swimming pool insurance covers the children, teachers and parents once they enter the building and until they leave the building.
- Two adults must supervise the dressing area in dressing rooms.

Health and Safety

As per the health and safety policies of the Convent Primary School and the Claremorris Pool, in the event of medical intervention being necessary for a child, she will be attended to by the local doctor or doctor on call and parents will be contacted immediately.

Special Needs

The procedures will be the same as above except:

- Special Needs Assistant(s) will accompany the class teacher.
- Parents of special needs children will be welcome to attend the pool during swimming lessons if the level of needs requires this.
- Parents will be asked to give written permission to allow SNA to help child with drying and dressing if the parent feels that this help is needed.