

STEPASIDE EDUCATE TOGETHER NATIONAL SCHOOL POLICY ON SWIMMING

Aims/Purposes

- To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming skills while they are at Stepaside Educate Together National School.
- To comply with the requirements of the Revised Curriculum in aquatics.

Procedures Guidelines

- Each pupil will attend a 5/6 week session in a swimming pool annually in 3rd class.
- The swimming pool at Loughlinstown is used.

Instructional Arrangements

- The School Principal, In-School Management and class teachers will organize the swimming programme.
- In developing partnership with the parents in the school, the class teacher, and parent volunteers will co-ordinate the swimming sessions.
- Instruction in the pool will be provided by the swimming coaches provided by Loughlinstown pool.

Travel and Supervision Arrangements

Pupils will be accompanied by and supervised by the class teacher on the bus on the way to the pool from the school. Parents will accompany to keep the ratio to the 15:1 minimum. In the pool parents and teachers will accompany the pupils to the changing rooms which are a choice of cubicles or one large changing area. Teacher and parents should be supervising the large changing area and outside the cubicles but should not be in the cubicles. Parent volunteers will be garda vetted for this purpose.

Inclusion of Children with Additional Needs/Associated with Stepping Stones

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

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. If not they will not be able to attend future lessons. There is one warning given to all pupils before the swimming lessons (6 week block) commences, any mis-behaviour following on from this does not get a further warning but an immediate consequence.

Parents/guardians will receive a standard letter providing information on school swimming before their child starts their swimming term. A consent note, granting permission for a child to participate in swimming must be returned to the class teacher prior to the start of the swimming term. This may be done through the Aladdin consent system from the 2022/2023 school year.

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.

Deodorants etc. 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.

Monitoring / Evaluation / Review:

Policy is revised annually or at other times if deemed necessary. This policy was last reviewed in January 2023.

Signed: _____

Aidan Gallagher, Chairperson of the Board of Management of SETNS

Date: _____