



**Scoil Chormaic**  
**Community National**  
**School**  
*Swimming Policy*

## Aims/Purposes

- To enable pupils to avail of the opportunity to acquire basic swimming skills during their time at Scoil Chormaic Community National School.
- To comply with the requirements of the Revised Curriculum in aquatics.

## 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 arranges for a four to seven week course of swimming instruction in the Aura Leisure swimming pool for each of its pupils during the school year.

## Procedures Guidelines

### Payment / Eligibility

- Swimming lessons are offered to each class levels once a year. There are between 30 – 45 spaces which are given out on a first come first served basis. Payment must be made in full to the school secretary.
- Parents will be sent a letter in advance of swimming lessons in order to give them the opportunity to decide if they wish their child to attend.
- Each pupil who opts into the swimming programme will attend an 4-7 week session in a swimming pool annually from Jun. Inf. – 3<sup>rd</sup> class.
- Attendance at this course fulfils the Aquatics Module of the PE Curriculum as laid down by the Department of Education and parents defray the cost of the course and also that of the transport to and from the pool.
- The swimming pool at Aura Leisure Centre, Drogheda has been reserved from for swimming lessons for pupils of Scoil Chormaic CNS.

### Travel

- Parents may travel on the swimming bus, but they may not bring any other children with them on the bus due to insurance reasons.
- Pupils will be accompanied by and supervised by a class teacher/ SET teacher on the way to and from the pool from the school. Pupils will travel by coach to the pool and the class teacher/ SET Teacher will provide supervision before and after the swimming lesson.
- Pupils in junior and senior infants are available to be collected by parents at the school following the return coach journey at 1:40pm approx.

### Parent Volunteers

- Parents of children in the junior classes are encouraged to attend swimming lessons with their children. If a child has been seen to have difficulty in dressing/ toileting at the pool the parent is requested to attend. If they are unable to do so this child may be removed from the swimming rota.
- Parents must attend a swimming talk, given by Ms J Regan (swimming coordinator) where all rules and procedures are explained to parents.

- All parents who wish to volunteer to attend swimming lessons are encouraged to apply for Garda vetting through the school office.
- Parents are advised to assist only their own child in the dressing room.
- Parents may take their own child from the pool/ dressing room but they must first tell the supervising teacher.
- All children are encouraged to participate in aquatics lessons as part of the National Curriculum. Should a child be unable to attend one lesson due to ill health or any other reason, a letter must be given to the principal/ class teacher and he/she will be allowed to stay behind and remain under the supervision of another class teacher.

### **Swimming Bags / Dressing Room Rules**

- The use of shampoo/ body wash is prohibited.
- All children must shower before entering the pool and on leaving the pool.
- All children attending the course should wear their tracksuit. (Swimming togs may be worn under tracksuits coming to school).
- Each child must have a suitable bag to carry his/her swimming gear (Sports bag or similar with secure zip or other fastening).
- All items brought to the pool must be clearly labelled with the child's name. This includes the bag, tracksuit, socks, underwear and shoes.
- Each child must have their own togs, towel, and swim cap, all of which should be clearly marked with the child's name.

### **Supervision at the swimming pool**

- Where possible a minimum of three teachers will accompany the children on their swimming course.
- These teachers will consist of one class teacher from the class level , and two support teachers.
- Pupils not attending swimming will be allocated between the two remaining classes before leaving the school at 11:15am and teachers should leave work for the pupils left behind.
- Supervising teachers must mark a swimming rolla before leaving the school and a head count must be completed when the children get onto the bus to go and once again when the children get onto the bus to come home.
- Where possible two communal dressing rooms will be used at the pool. One for the girls and one for the boys. (In the case of the senior students they may be permitted to use cubical changing rooms).
- If a teacher feels that a student is misbehaving in the pool, or a student has been put out of the pool by a lifeguard the teacher can decide that the child is no longer allowed to continue the lesson.

### **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. Staff will follow the guidelines of our own Health & Safety and Child Protection policies at all times.

- Pupils are required to behave at all times in a manner that ensures the safety of all involved in school swimming. Pupils must endeavour to obey the instructor's orders at all times and comply with the School Code of Behaviour.
- Parents/guardians will receive a standard letter providing information on school swimming before their child starts their swimming term.
- Teachers of all classes should remain on the viewing deck during the lesson in order to supervise the overall group and pupils who may need to use the toilets during the lesson.
- The permission from parents to the school to let children go swimming is covered in the Annual Consent Form in the Private and Confidential form.

### **Monitoring / Evaluation / Review**

This policy is revised annually, or at other times if deemed necessary. This policy was last reviewed in September 2013.