

# Scoil Chormaic

COMMUNITY NATIONAL SCHOOL

*SCOIL NAISIÚNTA POBAIL*



Stephenstown, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin

*Baile Stiofán, Baile Brigín, Co. BÁC*

# Swimming Lessons Policy

2023 onwards

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## **Introductory Statement**

Scoil Chormaic CNS was established in 2010. It is under the patronage of Dublin Dún Laoghaoire Education and Training Board. This policy outlines the procedures that are followed in Scoil Chormaic CNS for the organisation of swimming lessons for pupils.

## **Rationale**

The staff and management of Scoil Chormaic CNS acknowledge the importance of providing the best education possible for all pupils. As aquatics is one of the six strands in the physical education curriculum, the school organises for a course of swimming lessons in a local swimming pool.

## **Aim**

The aim of this policy is,

- To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming skills
- To comply with the requirements of the physical education curriculum

## Procedures

Each pupil will be given the opportunity to attend a six-week block of swimming lessons in Aura Leisure Centre Drogheda in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class.

Attendance at the course of lessons fulfils the Aquatics Module of the PE Curriculum as laid down by the Department of Education. Families meet the cost of the swimming lessons and also that of the transport to and from the swimming pool.

Pupils in special classes will be given the opportunity to attend swimming lessons on a yearly basis, where possible.

## Payment

- A swimming place will be offered to all pupils in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class each year.
- All pupils are encouraged to participate in swimming lessons.
- Families will be sent a letter in advance of lessons detailing the dates and cost of the lessons and transport to and from the pool.
- Payments are made using MIT and payment must be made in full in advance of lessons commencing.

## Travel

- The school will book a bus to transport pupils to and from the swimming pool.
- The bus will collect pupils at the school and return pupils to the school.
- Pupils will be accompanied by school staff on the way to and from the pool.
- Parents should meet their child at Aura Leisure Centre if they feel it necessary to assist their child.

## Swimming Bags

- All pupils attending the lessons should wear their school tracksuit. Swimwear should be worn under tracksuits coming to school (where possible)
- Each pupil must have a suitable bag to carry their swimming gear (sports bag or similar with secure zip or other fastening)
- Swimming gear required:
  - Swimming togs
  - Towel
  - Swimming hat
  - Hair brush
  - Pupils may bring goggles if they wish to do so
- All items brought to the pool must be clearly labelled with the pupil's name. This includes the swimming bag, tracksuit and swimwear.

## 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 each class teacher from the class level, and one support teacher.
- For Spraoi classes, additional staff will attend.
- If any pupil is not attending the swimming lessons, they will remain at school (in a different class) and complete work left by the class teacher.
- Supervising teachers must mark a swimming rolla before leaving the school and a head count must be completed when the pupils get onto the bus to go and once again when the pupils 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 pupil is misbehaving in the pool, or a pupil has been put out of the pool by a lifeguard the teacher can decide that the pupil is no longer allowed to continue the lesson. In the event of repeated misbehaviour, the pupil may not be allowed to continue for the remaining lessons.

## 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 should be independent in self-care (changing, drying and dressing themselves). If a pupil has difficulty in any area of the above mentioned self-care, the parent or guardian should make contact with the pupils' class teacher in advance of lessons beginning.
- For pupils in Special Classes, support will be offered in self-care, however pupils will be encouraged to be as independent as possible in changing, drying and dressing.
- 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 swimming teachers' instructions at all times and comply with the School Code of Positive 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.
- If a pupil has medical needs, any considerations should be discussed with the pupil's class teacher in advance of the lessons beginning.

## Success criteria

This policy will be deemed to have been successful if:

- The procedures outlined above are successfully implemented

## Implementation

### Roles and responsibilities

- All Staff & families: Making themselves familiar with this policy and its procedures
- ISLT: Maintaining and reviewing the policy as necessary
- Principal: Implementation of the policy

### Timeframe

This policy has been revised in the 2022-2023 school year. It will be implemented in its entirety once agreed by the Board of Management.

## Monitoring

Implementation of the policy will be monitored by the principal, and where appropriate, ISLT.

## Review

This policy will be reviewed on an bi annual basis.

## Ratification and communication

This policy has been communicated directly to staff during a staff meeting, and will be made available electronically also. A hard copy will be available alongside other school policies.

It was shared with parents and guardians on June 2023 and ratified by the Board of Management on 29 August 2023 and placed on the school website.

Signed by

*Colm Kilgallon*

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Chairperson of the Board of Management

*Deirdre Corcoran*

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Principal of Scoil Chormaic CNS