

St Mary's Church of England Primary School



Learn. Grow. Achieve. Flourish.

Swimming Policy and Procedure 2022 (Part of the PE policy)

POLICY: Swimming Policy & Procedures
APPROVED BY: Headteacher
APPROVED DATE: 06.09.2022
REVIEW DATE: September 2025
This policy is reviewed every 3 years

Our School Vision

St Mary's school vision is to embrace a Christian like way of living, learning and teaching.

As a Church of England primary school, we value and are ambitious for all children and are committed to providing a positive, happy, safe and stimulating environment for them to enjoy and excel in their learning; grow in confidence, resilience and independence; achieve their full potential and flourish as individuals.

'I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths.' (Proverbs 4:11)

Rationale

All pupils must participate in swimming lessons in a primary school setting regardless if they can swim or not. This is because swimming is a lifesaving skill, which promotes health and fitness and is a recreation, which can be inclusive and enjoyed throughout life. The ability to swim safely may save a child's life and as such has been a statutory element of the national curriculum since 2014.

Children should leave primary school with the skills to keep themselves safe while enjoying swimming with friends and family. According to the primary curriculum 2014, this should include teaching pupils to:

- Swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres
- Use a range of strokes effectively – for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke
- Perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations.

Intention

At St Mary's Church of England Primary School, the aims of teaching swimming are to:

- Enable children to develop and explore physical skills with increasing stamina and co-ordination
- Enable children to develop their confidence in water by developing their ability to rest, float and adopt support positions
- Enable all children the opportunity to be water confident and to be able to swim 25 metres
- Develop core swimming strokes on the front and back
- Have knowledge of the principles of water safety and to learn the appropriate skills

Venue

An agreed arrangement is in place to use Eton College swimming facilities.

- The venue is accessible within less than 10 minutes travelling time by vehicle.
- The pool is contained within its own unit and has private changing facilities. It is booked for single school use throughout term time.
- The venue meets the school's safeguarding standards and changing facilities are separated from adult changing facilities and are able to be supervised by school staff.
- Eton College is responsible for the upkeep of the facilities and has a risk assessment for the facilities and swimming arrangements.
- The pool is deep enough to allow children to swim comfortably using deep and shallow areas suitable to the needs of the children.
- Eton College has agreed to provide qualified swimming instructors for all lessons.

Organisation

- Swimming is currently for year 5 and year 3.
- Children will be grouped and all groups will remain static for the purposes of safeguarding, monitoring, familiarity of the group, assessment and monitoring.
- Any changes, such as a pupil leaving St Mary's or new starter to the swimming group should be communicated to the swimming facilities lead promptly and affected groups should be updated accordingly.
- The member of staff who accompanies the small group will also remain on the poolside and act as a 'spotter'.
- As swimming is a requirement of the National Curriculum 2014 PE and Sport Curriculum, there will be no charge made for swimming lessons. Parents will be asked for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of transport.

Responsibilities

SCHOOL

- The Governors are responsible for ensuring swimming is provided as part of the National Curriculum 2014.
- The Headteacher is responsible for the organisation and timetabling of swimming, transport and the deployment of staff.
- The PE lead is responsible for collating data and sharing this with governors and SLT of those pupils who can and cannot swim at least 25 metres.
- A lead member of staff (the class teacher in the first instance) is responsible for the behaviour and safety of the group of children who are going swimming. This responsibility extends on the bus, at the pool and while the children are changing. Head counts and registers when entering the bus must be conducted to ensure all children are present.
- All members of our school staff will encourage children to respect the facilities on offer.
- All members of staff support the swimming teachers in maintaining good discipline in the pool and ensuring all pool rules are followed.
- All members of staff supervise all the children changing in the individual cubicles and then acts as an additional spotter on the poolside.
- All members of staff must carryout final checks to ensure all belongings are taken back to school and the area is left as found.
- The class teacher should record observations noting those who are able to swim at least 25 metres.

SWIMMING TEACHERS

- Qualified swimming teachers are responsible for planning and delivering swimming lessons, leading water safety lessons, and ensuring poolside and pool safety.
- The swimming teachers are responsible for assessing pupils' learning.
- The swimming teachers are required to act as lifeguards if the group is small and are responsible for the deployment of lifeguards if the size of the group or the activity warrants it.

Safeguarding

- The children will change in the individual cubicles. If the cubicles are not available, the children will change in the male and female changing rooms. Staff are able to supervise at a distance but should ensure they are close enough to maintain good order.
- All staff who accompany children to swimming are DBS checked, as are the swimming teachers and the bus drivers.
- If a parent is invited to accompany the group, to act as a spotter, they should also be DBS checked. They should not be responsible for supervising children changing areas.
- No photography is allowed.

Medical & Emergency

- The school must provide a risk assessment highlighting hazards, risk level, pupil medication and conditions, contingency plans and emergency contact details.
- The school provides a list of pupils for each group and highlights any medical conditions or medicines that need to be taken. All medication is clearly labelled and remains with the class teacher in the class medical bag.
- A first aid kit should always be in the medication bag.

Contacts in an emergency

- The lead member of staff accompanying swimming should always carry a risk assessment and a mobile phone to summon assistance if required.
- A telephone call to St Mary's school can enable support to be made available at the facilities if necessary.
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Policy Links

- PE Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Visits Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Volunteers Policy
- Administration of medicines Policy
- First Aid Policy

Policy ratified by: Pamela O'Brien (Headteacher)

Date: 06.09.2022

APPENDIX 1

