



# Presentation Senior School

*"A community of learners inspired by the vision and values of Nano Nagle"*

## Swimming Policy

### Introduction

This policy was drafted by the teaching staff in Presentation Senior School in January 2013. It was ratified by the Board of Management on 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2013. The aim of the policy is to clarify matters in relation to the teaching of the curriculum content in the aquatics strand of the school's Physical Education Programme.

### Aquatics Strand of Physical Education Curriculum

The Aquatics strand includes the following strand units:

1. Hygiene
2. Water Safety
3. Entry to and exit from the water
4. Buoyancy and propulsion
5. Stroke development
6. Water-based ball games
7. Understanding and appreciation of aquatics

Lessons will be taught in the school to cover some aspects of the strand units listed above e.g Hygiene and Water Safety. However, it will be necessary for the children to attend a swimming programme at the local facility to ensure every opportunity is given to them to become competent and confident swimmers. A programme consisting of one lesson every week for seven weeks will be organised by the school for the children in the local swimming pool.

### Roles and Responsibilities

School related outings are enjoyable and provide wonderful authentic learning opportunities for children. Everyone, including each individual child, must be responsible for making these activities enjoyable and worthwhile. The essential roles and responsibilities of children, parents and staff are outlined below:

#### Pupils

Except in the case of children with special needs, the children will:

1. Remember to take their swimming gear to school on the appropriate days
2. Remind their parents about making the necessary payments to the school for swimming lessons
3. Take instructions from their teacher and behave appropriately on their way to the pool, at the pool and on their return to the school



4. Actively engage in the swimming lessons and listen carefully to the swimming coaches
5. Change and dress themselves at the pool
6. Comply with school and swimming pool rules
7. Take responsibility for personal hygiene and safety at the pool
8. Protect their own belongings at the pool
9. Protect their own privacy and respect the privacy of others

All children attending swimming lessons should wear their school tracksuit. Swimming togs may be worn under tracksuits coming to school. Each child must have a suitable bag to carry his/her swimming gear with secure zip or other fastening. All items of clothing should be clearly labelled with the child's full name. Each child must have their own togs, towel, hair brush, swim cap and goggles, all of which must also be marked.

Generally, children from third class upwards who do not have special needs will have sufficiently developed personal care skills to manage all of the above with ease. Children with special needs and who have been granted access to a Special Needs Assistant (SNA) will be assisted by school personnel. Parents will be informed that this assistance is being provided.

## **Parents**

Parents will:

1. Understand that swimming lessons are part of the Primary Curriculum and, therefore, all children are expected to participate fully. Children will only be exempt for medical reasons. In such instances parents are advised to inform the school principal in writing.
2. Support the work of the teacher by encouraging their child to participate fully in the learning activities relating to the aquatics strand in the classroom and in the swimming pool.
3. Teach their child the necessary personal care skills needed for attending swimming lessons e.g. changing clothes, drying hair etc
4. Pay the cost for the swimming lessons
5. Assist their children to organise the necessary swimming gear e.g. swim wear, goggles, towel etc
6. Trust the school staff to supervise the children in the changing area
7. If necessary, by arrangement with the class-teacher, assist their child to change her/his clothes in the dedicated parent and child changing area of the local swimming pool

Parents are advised that swimming lessons that take place during school hours will be extremely well supervised by Presentation Senior School's teachers and special needs assistants.



It is hoped that all of the children, except those with special needs, will have the basic self-care skills necessary to change dress themselves and dry their hair after swimming lessons. Children who need help from their parents to change in/out of swimming gear and/or to dry their hair may be assisted only in the parent and child changing room. Parents of these children are advised to make the school aware of these needs in order to ensure:

1. the necessary arrangements for the safe hand-over of the child to his/her parent may occur at an agreed place on entering the pool
2. safe return of the child to the care of the teacher in advance of returning to the school.

As the swimming lessons are taking place in school time and all children participating are in the care of the class- teacher, parents are not permitted to enter the changing area before, during or after the swimming lessons.

In the interests of child protection, the Board of Management and staff of Presentation Senior School will fulfil all of the requirements set out in the Department of Education and Skills Circular 0063/2010 relating to Garda vetting. This circular states:

*"Many schools avail of the services of other persons (non-employees) such as sports coaches, volunteers etc to assist in and support school activities. The vetting requirements being introduced in this circular apply to any such persons that have or may have unsupervised access to children or vulnerable adults. These vetting requirements will assist schools in assessing the suitability, from a child protection perspective, of any such persons to work with children or vulnerable adults. A school authority may also separately determine that it is necessary to check references or past work experience of such persons before they are engaged in any capacity. If a school authority has any doubts about the suitability, from a child protection perspective, of any such persons to work with children or vulnerable adults then they should not be engaged in any capacity. The final decision on the suitability of such persons rests with each school authority."*

Appendix 1 - Circular 0063/2010

In order to comply fully with the requirements of this circular:

1. Only parents who have provided the school with proof of their Garda vetting and who have been approved by the school authority will have access to the children during school related activities
2. Parents are advised that Garda vetting alone does not entitle an adult to work with or have access to the children. Approval from the school authority is also necessary.

### **Coordinator of Sport in Presentation Senior School**

Ms. Shaw, who is the teacher responsible for co-coordinating sports activities in the school will:

1. Liaise with the local swimming pool to organise dates and times for swimming lessons
2. Negotiate the cost of the swimming lessons
3. Organise a timetable for all classes to attend swimming lessons



4. Update the calendar on the school website to show the swimming dates for each class in the school.
5. Will communicate all relevant information to the parents and teachers in relation to the organisation of the swimming lessons
6. With the assistance of class teachers and the school secretary, ensure that all children who attend swimming lessons make the necessary payment to the school
7. Assist teachers with the preparation of classroom based lessons to support the swimming lessons attended by the children in the local swimming pool

### **Class Teacher**

The class teacher will:

1. Teach appropriate classroom lessons to prepare the children for the swimming-lessons in the pool e.g. water safety, hygiene etc.
2. Collect money from the children to pay for the lessons
3. Teach the children about road safety so that the journey to and from the pool may be used as an exercise to support learning in relation to road safety
4. Supervise the children on their way to and from the swimming pool
5. Remain in the viewing area during the lessons and available to assist any child who may need to leave the pool for any reason
6. Supervise the children in the changing area
7. Ensure that each child's personal privacy is respected in the swimming pool
8. Report incidents of serious misbehaviour to the school principal
9. Ensure that sufficient time is given to the children to
  - a. to shower/rinse off after the swimming lesson – Shampoo and shower gel will not be used at this time.
  - b. to dress and dry their hair

Male teachers will always be accompanied by a female SNA and/or teacher.

### **Communication of Policy**

This policy is published on the school website under the School Policy section.

