



**Dunshaughlin
Community National School**

Swimming Policy

Policy Aims

- To enable the children to acquire basic swimming skills
- To comply with the requirements of the Physical Education (PE) Curriculum (Strand: Aquatics)
- To protect the wellbeing of our children and staff by providing a safe and nurturing environment while attending swimming lessons

Rationale

Dunshaughlin CNS is committed to supporting the physical and mental development of every child who attends our school. Swimming is an important life skill that supports water safety and with this in mind, the school arranges a six-week course of swimming lessons in Aura Leisure Centre, Trim for each child from Senior Infants upwards each school year.

Procedures/Guidelines

- The children from First Class upwards will attend a 6-week session in the National Aquatic Centre, Blanchardstown.
- Prior to attending the swimming lessons, the school will seek clarification in writing that the swimming instructors are fully Garda vetted and suitably qualified to teach children of this age.
- Attendance at these lessons is necessary to complete the Aquatics strand of the PE curriculum. Should a child be unable to attend aquatics due to a medical condition or otherwise, an exemption form must be completed accompanied by a letter from a medical professional. Arrangements for supervision for these children will be made on a case-by-case basis.
- Where a parent/guardian does not give permission to attend the swimming lessons and fails to meet the exemption under medical grounds, the school will not be in a position to provide supervision for the child. Parents/Guardians will be required to collect the child from the school for the duration of time the rest of the child's class is off site for the lessons.
- Should a child be unable to attend one lesson for health or any other reason, a letter or message on Aladdin must be provided to the class teacher. In this circumstance, a child may be required to travel with their class to the Leisure Centre and supervised there by their class teacher.

- Children will be supervised by school and venue staff as per the Supervision policy.
- If a child is to be collected from the pool by a parent/guardian for an appointment or family emergency, a letter/note on Aladdin must be sent to the class teacher outlining the time of departure from the pool.
- All children attending the swimming lessons must wear their tracksuit. Swimming togs must be worn under tracksuits coming to school that day. Each child must have a suitable bag to carry his/her swimming gear- a sports bag or similar with a secure zip or fastening. The bag must be big enough to fit all your child's clothes and footwear as this bag will be stored away during the swimming lessons.
- Children must be able to dry and dress themselves independently. Children will not be permitted to dress each other.
- All items brought to the pool must be **clearly labelled** with the child's name. This includes their bag, tracksuit, socks, underwear and shoes. Loss of the items is the child's responsibility.
- Each child must have their own swimming togs, towel and swimming cap, all of which must also be marked with their name. (Children will not be permitted to enter the water without a swimming cap).
- No valuables, money or jewellery are to be brought to the pool or on the bus. Glasses are the only exception to this rule.
- Deodorants or aerosol sprays of any kind are not permitted.

Health and Safety

- Best practice in relation to Child Safeguarding as outlined by Sport Ireland will be adhered to.
<https://www.sportireland.ie/ethics/safeguarding-guidance-for-children-and-young-people-in-sport>
- Staff will always follow the guidelines of our own Health and Safety and Child Protection policies.
- Children are required to behave in a manner that ensures the safety of all attending school swimming lessons. The children must follow the instructor's orders and comply with the school Code of Behaviour.
- Parents/Guardians will receive a letter providing information on school swimming before their child starts their swimming term.
- Teachers and/or SNAs will accompany children who may need to use the toilets during the lesson.
- Consent via Aladdin will be required prior to a child commencing the lessons.

- If there is an incident of wetting, soiling, or vomiting on clothes, the school's Intimate Care policy will be followed. The Intimate Care policy is available on the school website.

Implementation and Review

Once ratified by the Board of Management, this policy will be reviewed biennially. However, should the need arise, the policy can be reviewed at any time in the interim if deemed necessary by the principal and/or Board of Management.

BOM Ratification

LMETB School/College:	Dunshaughlin CNS
Date of Board of Management Meeting:	28/4/26
Policy:	Swimming Policy
Proposed By:	Jonathan Dunne
Seconded By:	Laura Murphy
Signed by Chairperson BOM:	Cllr. Gerry O' Connor