

## Swimming Policy

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**Subject Weighting; 1 hour per week (classed as PE)**

### **Aims**

- To meet the requirements of the National Curriculum;
- To develop the personal and social development of children and their health and well-being;
- To promote a valuable life skill;
- To cater for the lifestyle of the school community with the majority of students having pools at their home.

The school provides swimming lessons for students in the Reception Class to Year 6.

The main aims of the swim programme is to swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 meters and to use a range of strokes effectively for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke) to perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations.

According to swimsafe.org drowning is the third highest cause of accidental death in Thailand. Every day in Thailand, 7 children drown. The majority of children are unsupervised or with their peers when these incidents occur. By ensuring our students can be safe in a water based activity we will allow them to have an enjoyable activity that will help them keep fit and healthy, as well as improve enjoyment of holidays and prepare them for a whole host of potential water sports. Swimming also offers a unique bonding experience and is one of those few leisure activities that people of all ages can do together.

### **How we organise swimming at The BECC:**

Swimming at The BECC is time tabled throughout the school year. The swimming lessons last at least 45 minutes and are included as one of the school's PE lessons. The BECC employs a qualified, suitable instructor who is supported by an appropriate number of appropriate adults.

Adult – Student Ratios

[www.swimming.org](http://www.swimming.org)

	Health and Safety	Quality Delivery
<b>Non-swimmers and beginners</b> – Young children, normally primary school age, being introduced to swimming who are unable to swim 10 metres unaided on back or front	12:1	8:1
<b>Children under the age of seven</b> – Irrespective of their swimming ability group size should be restricted	12:1	8:1
<b>Improving swimmers</b> – Swimmers of a similar ability to each other who can swim at least 10 metres competently and unaided on their back and on their front. It is recommended that the lesson be confined to an area in which the children are not out of their depth	20:1	12:1
<b>Mixed ability groups</b> – Pupils with a range of abilities (from improving to competent) where the least able and least confident are working well within their depth. Swimmers techniques, stamina and deep water experience should be considered	20:1	12:1
<b>Competent swimmers</b> – Those swimmers who can swim at least 25 metres competently and unaided on front and back, and can tread water for two minutes	20:1	15:1
<b>Swimmers with disabilities</b> – Each situation must be considered individually, as people with disabilities are not a homogeneous group. Care must be taken to ensure that there are sufficient helpers in the water to provide a 1:1 ratio for those needing constant support, and a sufficient number of other helpers to provide the degree of support required by the range of disabilities within the group	8:1 with 1:1 support in the water where required	6:1 with 1:1 support in the water where required

The above guides are strictly followed during our swimming lessons.

At the start of the lesson, the swimming assistant will collect the class and take them to the pool. The instructor is located at the pool.

In order to monitor the non-swimmers and to act as an extra support measure, the class teacher also attends the swimming pool with the class.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The role of the members of staff in charge:

- The welfare of children in changing room = Thai Teacher for the class.
- Overall maintenance of good discipline = Instructor, Support Teachers.
- Marking the attendance register = Instructor.

- Ensuring the water safety of all children and maintain a safe working environment = all members of staff.
- Monitoring non-swimmers = Class Teacher in classroom.
- At the end of the lesson/ getting changed = Support Teachers.
- Confirm attendance levels and any relevant medical information with the swimming instructors = The BECC
- Adhere to health and safety requirements = All helpers
- To monitor the water levels regularly and the safety of the grounds and pool = Instructor who informs the office who informs pool maintenance.
- To maintain and keep a record of the pupils' swimming achievements inside and outside of school = Instructor.
- To give guidance to supporting staff = Instructor.
- To report to the class teachers the daily issues that arise e.g. behavior = Instructor.
- To report to the Managing Partner's longer term issues that impact on the swimming provision = Instructor.

The swimming Instructor will:

- Possess a Police Clearance from their own country and Thailand.
- Have a relevant coaching award to teach swimming.
- Possess a relevant First Aid certificate.
- Make sure all children and teachers know safety drills.
- Have all equipment ready and in the correct place in the teaching area.
- Consult with the accompanying teacher and agree arrangements to be made including pick up, drop off and other logistical requirements as needs arise.
- Report any damaged or required items to the office to source replacements or new resources.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Swimming by its very nature poses risk. At all times, children must be supervised and be acting appropriately. If at any point a member of staff feels the lesson is unsafe, they must immediately stop the lesson and report to the office to inform either the School Manager or a Managing Partner.

## **BEHAVIOUR**

The swimming pool is a place of work and should be treated as a classroom with the same rules regarding behavior including using the Star system.

## **ATTENDANCE**

All parents must ensure that their children attend all allocated lessons. As swimming is a statutory part of the National Curriculum parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from this statutory element of the National Curriculum, unless the child has an EHCP (Education Health Care Plan) or a viable reason is offered.

Older children are encouraged to be independent in terms of organising their swimming kits. Children who forget their swimming kits or cannot participate in the lesson for any reason will be required to attend and observe the lessons from the side of the pool. This is in line with the other aspects of the PE curriculum delivery.

Parents of children returning from an illness that would prevent them from swimming for a short period of time must provide the school with medical evidence of the illness in order that they may be excused from the lesson. Should a child not be able to swim for an extended period of time, a Doctor's letter must be provided and the situation communicated with the school office.

## **SWIMMING KIT**

Girls should wear a one-piece swimsuit and boys should wear swimming shorts (non-baggy shorts) and shirt. All children should wear a swim hat and students with long hair, ensure it is tied up. Provision must be made for alternative attire for minority ethnic pupils when a request is made.

## **GOGGLES**

Goggles are optional but recommended as it aids with the children positioning their heads in the water correctly. There are health and safety issues when using goggles and they are often not used in England in schools. As our school community members are more regular swimmers, as long as the child can independently use the goggles they may use them throughout the lessons.