



SCOIL BHRÍDE BUACHAILLÍ

SWIMMING POLICY STATEMENT

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As part of the Aquatics strand of the PE curriculum, all 3rd and 4th Class children will be offered a place on a six-week swimming programme in the National Aquatic Centre each year. The 3rd Class children will attend lessons in Spring/Summer and the 4th Class children will attend lessons in Autumn/Winter. It is hoped that this will help the children retain and consolidate the swimming skills they learn by attending twelve lessons in one calendar year.

The children's parent(s)/guardian(s) will cover the cost of the swimming programme as well as transport to and from the Aquatic Centre, with a small subsidy from the Board of Management. However, no child will be refused access to swimming lessons due to family financial constraints; in such cases the school will make arrangements with the child's parent(s)/guardian(s) to cover the cost of the lessons.

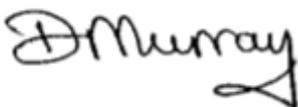
All children are expected to behave according to school rules. Failure to abide by these rules may necessitate the withdrawal of a child from a particular lesson or series of lessons. No refund will be made in such cases. Refunds will only be issued in cases where a child develops an insurmountable fear of the water or if they miss a substantial number of classes due to absences from school.

The class teacher (or a substitute teacher, if available, in the class teacher's absence) will accompany the children to and from the Aquatic Centre. The teacher will bring class lists and emergency phone numbers. The children will be under adult supervision on the bus and in the dressing rooms, and under the supervision of the swimming instructors when they are at poolside or in the water. A staff member will also be present at poolside. Swimming instruction, life-guard duties and First Aid will be the responsibility of the Aquatic Centre staff. The swimming programme will be drawn up by the National Aquatic Centre in consultation with the teachers to best fulfil the objectives of the Aquatics strand of the PE curriculum.

A member of school staff (or a substitute teacher, if available, in the class teacher's absence) will supervise the children in the changing rooms but will not assist in drying or dressing the children after the swimming lessons. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are not allowed into dressing rooms and are generally not permitted to attend swimming lessons. If a child requires individual assistance, parent(s)/guardian(s) may apply to the BOM to accompany the child to the Aquatic Centre and assist them in a separate changing room. In the context of a member of staff having to attend to a child on a one-to-one basis, e.g. accompanying a child to the toilet or waiting for a child to get dressed, at no time will the child be on his/her own with a member of staff in a toilet, dressing room or any other setting that could place the child or adult in a vulnerable position. Similarly, at no time will a child be on his/her own with another child in a setting that could place the child in a vulnerable position.

All children will wear their PE clothes to school on swimming days. They will also wear appropriate swimwear to school underneath their tracksuit. They will bring a towel, swimming hat, spare underwear and an extra sandwich and drink for their lunch. They may bring swimming goggles and armbands if they wish. They will not be allowed wear any jewellery, hairpieces or swimming masks. The children may shower after the swimming instruction, but due to time-constraints, they will not be allowed use shampoo or shower gel.

No image recording of the children will be allowed in the National Aquatic Centre.



Signed:

Declan Murray (Chairperson, Board of Management)

Date: 20th December 2021