



# Swimming Policy

Approved by: Headteacher & SLT

Last reviewed: September 2023

Next review: July 2025

## Why we provide swimming lessons at Gaskell Community Primary School

- To meet the requirements of the National Curriculum;

*All schools must provide swimming instruction either in key stage 1 or key stage 2. In particular, pupils should be taught 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] o*
  - *perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations*
- To develop the personal and social development of children and their health and well-being;
  - To promote a valuable life skill

## How we will organise swimming at Gaskell Community Primary School.

Swimming at Gaskell Community Primary School is currently timetabled in the Summer term for Years 6, 5 and 4.

Children, therefore, have the opportunity to develop and improve their swimming throughout the primary phase.

Each child will have 10 hours of swimming in each year group. This may be organised as 1x hour over 10 weeks or as a fortnight block booking where they swim every day.

We use local high school provision at Smithills and Sharples.

Children are transported using our school minibuses.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### The role of the member of staff in charge:

- The welfare of children in changing room;  
Ensure accompanying adults are appropriately dressed.
- Overall maintenance of good discipline;
- Counting children into and out of the building
- Marking the attendance register;
- Ensuring the water safety of all children and maintain a safe working environment
- Confirm attendance levels and any relevant medical information with the swimming instructors;
- Make arrangements about the provision for children with special needs and confirm risk assessment;
- Adhere to health and safety requirements;
- Ensure the children are wearing seatbelts whilst travelling to/from the swimming pool.

### **The role of adult helpers:**

- The welfare of specific children in changing room. Supervision and oversight of designated child, ensuring the child understands and follows instructions. Where possible we try to have a male and female member of staff for relevant changing rooms although this is not always possible.
- Consult with the member of staff in charge and agree arrangements to be made about the provision for children with special needs and confirm risk assessment.
- Adhere to health and safety requirements.

### **The role of the PE subject leader:**

- To liaise with Headteacher and School Office manager when booking the swimming provision.
- To undertake a risk assessment of the school's swimming provision annually and monitor its implementation on an ongoing basis;
- To ensure that the law relating to SEND is followed whereby schools take all reasonable steps to avoid discriminating against pupils on the grounds of their disability.
- To maintain and keep a record of the pupils' swimming achievements inside and outside of school.
- To report to the governing body annually on the impact of the school's swimming provision.
- Ensure the recommended teacher ratios are adhered to. 12:1 for beginners swimmers, 8:1 for SEN pupils unless they are 1:1.
- To ensure annual briefing sessions take place with all staff involved with swimming provision.

### **The swimming instructor will:**

- Possess DBS clearance.
- Have full ASA Teachers Award or an STA equivalent as well as a life-saving award recognised by Health and Safety Unit.
- 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 about the provision for children with special needs and confirm risk assessment.
- Ensure children know the procedure for the start/end of lesson, their grouping and assigned area of pool and teacher.
- To assess and record pupil progress.
- Organise classes according to: Class numbers/Pupil ability /Numbers of teachers/adult helpers

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

It is essential that schools take note of and comply with 'Safe Practice in Physical Education' [BAALPE] which provides detailed, authoritative guidance on safety issues, including safety in swimming lessons and the DfE guidelines on educational visits. 'The duty of care for all pupils remains at all times with the accompanying teacher.' (BAALPE Safe Practice in Physical Education) All staff will involved with swimming provision will have read the relevant BAALPE documentation to be provided by PE Subject Leader

### **Behaviour**


The swimming pool is a place of work and should be treated as a classroom with the same rules regarding behaviour.

## 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). 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.

## Swimming Kit

Boys			Girls				
						or	
trunks	swim cap	towel	swim cap	towel	costume		

Girls should wear a one-piece swimsuit and boys should wear swimming trunks. All children should wear a swim hat, with girls ensuring that their hair is tied up. Provision is made for alternative attire for minority ethnic pupils when a request is made. We do not encourage beginner swimmers to wear goggles. More confident and club swimmers may wear goggles if they have consent from their parents and following consultation with the Swimming Teacher.