



Swimming Policy

Policy agreed by:	M Hendry
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Swimming Policy

Swimming at Red Gates School

Pupils in years 1-6 participate in swimming lessons for approximately one term per academic year. The benefits of swimming are wide-ranging, and include promoting the development of gross motor skills, cognitive skills, muscle strength, endurance and communication skills. Swimming fosters courage, confidence and trust, and helps to develop positive relationships. It can be valuable in fostering socialisation and relaxation.

All staff and volunteers must be aware that swimming is a high risk activity, and individuals must be fully aware of the nature of disabilities for pupils with whom they are working. Most pupils require one to one support from an adult during swimming lessons. Strict supervision is essential and safety precautions must be recorded in risk assessments, and shared with all relevant staff members. These risk assessments must be signed by all members of staff participating in the swimming session before being signed by a member of LMT. The Deputy Head will assess the capability of swimming volunteers. A teacher or TA4 must be responsible for the swimming group and is in loco parentis. The Head Teacher is ultimately responsible for the safety of pupils on and off site. The Head Teacher may exclude a child from swimming if either a child or member of staff or both are considered to be at risk and therefore the activity is unsafe.

Our practice will actively reflect the Statutory Code of Practice on the Duty to Promote Race Equality and equality of opportunity and good race relations across all areas of school activity. Promoting race equality is central to the ethos at Red Gates.

School policy must be adhered to by all staff members and volunteers.

The Teacher's/ TA4's Responsibility

- The duty of care in swimming sessions remains the teacher's/ TA4's responsibility.
- A member of LMT or a senior teacher will shadow a teacher's/ TA4's first swimming session. Feedback will be given to the teacher/TA4 following this session to further support their future swimming sessions.
- The teacher/ TA4 must count/check pupils before and after sessions.
- The teacher/ TA4 is responsible for ensuring that there is a life guard on the pool side trained and able to act in an emergency. This adult should be free of any responsibility for supervising children who may be on the pool side.
- Changing rooms must be adequately supervised. Teacher's/ TA4's must delegate to staff when it is appropriate for them to get changed to ensure correct levels of supervision in the changing rooms.

Supervision in the Water

- Pupils with severe physical disabilities should be closely supervised on a one to one basis.
- Pupils with epilepsy and those suspected of having epilepsy should be closely supervised on a one to one basis.
- Pupils with challenging or unpredictable behaviour should be closely supervised on a one to one basis.
- Other pupils, at the discretion of the teacher, may need to be supervised on a one to one basis.

- All other pupils should be supervised within an appropriate ratio at the discretion of the class teacher/TA4. These ratios are determined prior to the trip and detailed on the risk assessment.
- All adults working with pupils in the water should do so according to their own swimming ability and confidence.

Supervision outside of the Water

- Swimming sessions take place at a public leisure centre which is hired by the school.
- The number of lifeguards on duty is determined by the amount of users in the pool. This decision is taken by the pool management.
- There should always be a qualified life guard on the side of the pool able to rescue and carry out resuscitation. In some cases, there are two qualified life guard on the side of the pool.
- The qualified life guard should not be responsible for supervising pupils on the pool side.
- Where there is one lifeguard available: Should the qualified life guard be required to enter the water, a designated member of staff should replace this person having made suitable alternative arrangements for the pupil(s) in their care.
- Any pupil(s) on the side of the pool should be supervised by one or more responsible adults, the number of which shall be at the discretion of the teacher/TA4.

Swimming Instructor

- A member of school staff is trained as a swimming instructor and is highly competent.
- The swimming instructor is suitably qualified and is certified by the Institute of Swimming.
- The swimming instructor will be trained in life saving and resuscitation and will remain in the swimming pool throughout the swimming lesson.
- The swimming instructor takes the lessons and liaises with the group teacher. However, responsibility for behaviour management and organisation at the swimming pool lies with the group teacher/TA4.
- The swimming instructor should monitor and record the swimming progress of pupils on SOLAR, and use this monitoring to inform the planning of swimming lessons.

Safety Precautions

- Parental consent must be sought and given in writing before any pupil goes swimming. This is sought on admission forms when a child first joins Red Gates School.
- Where necessary, appropriate medical or other professional approval should be sought for any pupil to go swimming.
- Individual moving and handling guidelines to be followed, including procedures for entering and exiting the water.
- Staff must supervise pupils wearing swimming aids.
- School staff must be capable of assisting the pupil to whom they have been assigned, if that pupil is in difficulty. If the member of staff requires further support, they must seek this from a colleague, the swimming instructor or qualified life saver in line with the signed risk assessment.
- There will be adequate lifesaving and first aid equipment at the pool side and a telephone connection for use in an emergency. All offsite visits require classes to carry a first aid kit with them.
- The instructor will be aware of the location of the nearest telephone.
- This policy to be read in conjunction with the 'Educational Visits Policy'.

Reviewed by staff & Premises, behaviour & Safety Committee May 2023

Head Teacher

Date

Chair of Governors

Date