

Swimming Policy.

Scoil Mhuire, Effin, Kilmallock. Co. Limerick.

Aims/Purposes:

- To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming skills while they are at Scoil Mhuire.
- To fulfill the requirements of the Primary School Physical Education Policy in Aquatics.

Procedures:

- Each pupil in 3rd to 6th Class will attend a six-week session in a swimming pool annually
- Availability of swimming pool space allows only for children from 3rd class and upwards to participate. Qualified instructors are provided and the children are divided into one of three standards: - Beginners - Intermediate - Advanced
- The swimming pool at the Charleville Park Hotel, will be reserved for two six-week slots in Term 2.
- The costs incurred by hiring of pool, the payment of instructors and the hiring of the bus are covered by the school and the Parent Association.

Attending Swimming Lessons:

- All children attending the swimming classes should wear their school uniform as usual.
- Each child must have a suitable bag to carry his/her swimming gear (sports bag or similar with secure zip or other fastening).
- All items brought to the pool must be clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Each child must have their own togs, towel, hair brush, goggles and swim cap - all of which must also be marked.
- Children should not bring any mobile device to the swimming pool. If children are in a position where they must bring their phone to school on that particular day, then in accordance with the school's "Mobile Phone & Devices Policy" they should hand the phone (powered off) to their teacher in the morning.

Supervision:

- The pupils are supervised on the bus by school staff.
- The boys' changing room is supervised by two male parents who have Garda Vetting Clearance.
- The girls' changing room is supervised by two female members of Scoil Mhuire staff for the first session and by a staff member and a Garda Vetted female parent for session two.
- No help is given to the children in the changing rooms.
- Children are not allowed buy any items from the vending machines in the foyer area.

Health and Safety:

- Best practice in relation to the supervision, instruction and child protection procedures as outlined by the Irish Sports Council, Swim Ireland and the National Safety Council will be adhered to at all times.
- Pupils are required to behave at all times in a manner that ensures the safety of all involved in school swimming.
- Parents/guardians will receive a standard letter providing information on school swimming before their child starts their swimming term. A consent note, granting permission for a child to participate in swimming, must be returned to the class teacher prior to the start of the swimming lessons.
- Where a parent/guardian has a health concern regarding their child's participation in swimming, professional advice must be sought before the child participates in the swimming lesson. A medical certificate is required if it is recommended that the child cannot participate in any swimming lessons.
- In the best interests of the child, it is the duty of parents/guardians to inform the class teacher and/or Principal with regard to any health condition that may affect the child in the pool. This information will be held in confidence and provided on a need to know basis to the swimming instructors.

- Aerosol deodorants must not be brought to the pool as the dressing rooms are confined spaces. The Health and Safety Guidelines outlined by the pool authorities will be strictly adhered to. Roll-on or stick deodorants are suitable for use after swimming.

Absences:

Pupils unable to swim on a particular day, for whatever reason, will go to the swimming pool with their class and take a book to read in the viewing area. Parents are required to provide the reason for a child's absence from a swimming lesson in writing.

Monitoring/Evaluation/Review:

The Swimming Policy is revised annually or at other times if deemed necessary.

Ratification and Communication:

The latest review of this plan was carried out in December 2022 and it was ratified at the Board of Management meeting held on 13/12/2022.

Signed _____

Chairperson