



Scoil Naomh Molaise

Grange, Co. Sligo.

Aquatics Policy

Aims/Purposes

- To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming skills while they are at Scoil Naomh Molaise.
- To comply with the requirements of the Aquatics strand of the P.E. Curriculum as laid down by the Department of Education and Skills.

Procedures and Guidelines

- Each pupil will attend a 6 week session in Ballyshannon Leisure Centre annually in 3rd and 4th class.
- The swimming pool at Ballyshannon Leisure Centre will be reserved for this period.
- Costs incurred by hiring of pool, payment of instructors and hiring of the bus necessitate a charge being imposed on each pupil. Inability to pay will not preclude a pupil from participating fully in swimming classes.
- Pupils are not permitted to bring any money or valuable items. There will be no access to vending machines.

Instructional Arrangements

- The school secretary will organise the swimming programme for 3rd and 4th classes.
- Instruction in the pool will be provided by the coaches employed by Ballyshannon Leisure Centre.
- Class teachers will supervise from the viewing gallery during the lessons.

Clothing and equipment:

- All children attending the course should wear their school tracksuit. (Swimming costumes may be worn under tracksuits coming to school).
- Children are encouraged to dress and undress independently. If any child requires assistance, they will be helped as necessary.
- 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. This includes the bag, tracksuit, socks, underwear and shoes.

- Each child must have their own swimming costume, swim cap, and towel all of which must also be marked. Goggles are optional.
- Deodorants and similar sprays 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.
- Shampoo/conditioner is not allowed as time constraints do not allow for washing/drying of hair. Pupils with long hair are advised to bring an extra towel, turbie towel or hat.

Travel and Supervision Arrangements

Pupils will be transported to and from the school/swimming pool by bus and be accompanied by the class teacher. The class teacher will provide supervision along with additional school staff, parent volunteers and/or the swimming instructors before and after the swimming lesson.

Child Protection

The school will adhere to best practice in relation to the supervision, instruction and child protection procedures as outlined by Swim Ireland: Safeguarding Children Policies and Procedures. Supervision of changing areas will be provided, where possible, by adults in pairs. Additional school staff and parent volunteers may assist the class teacher in providing supervision, once Garda vetted in accordance with procedures.

Health and Safety

Pupils are required to behave at all times in a manner that ensures the safety of all involved in school swimming. While in the pool, pupils must endeavour to obey the instructor's orders at all times and comply with the school's Code of Behaviour.

Parents/guardians will receive a standard letter providing information on school swimming before their child starts their swimming term. A consent form, granting permission for a child to participate in swimming must be completed on Aladdin prior to the start of the swimming term.

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. Parents need to inform the school in writing of the reason for not participating. In this case, the pupil may travel to the pool with the class and watch from the viewing gallery or remain in the school under the supervision of another teacher. The class teacher/Principal will decide on the most suitable arrangement.

Should a child be unable to participate due to ill health on occasion, a written explanation should be provided to the class teacher. Appropriate arrangements will be made.

In the best interest 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.

Ratification

This policy was ratified by the BOM on: 28th November 2023

Signed: *Fr Christy McHugh*

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: *Louise O'Connor*

Principal