

Central Model Infant School
Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1.

Swimming Policy

This is an activity organised by our school to comply with the requirements of the Primary School Curriculum (1999). We in the Central Model Infant School also see it as an important skill for our pupils to begin to learn from an early age. We encourage all pupils to go when it is their class turn on the timetable, which is as follows:

October/November: First Class

February/ March: Senior Infants

April/May/June: Junior Infants

This may vary on an annual basis.

The swimming lessons for our pupils currently take place in Seán Mac Dermott Street Swimming Pool. The pupils walk to and from the swimming pool and the following safety procedures are in place:

- Two teachers per class supervise the pupils walking to and from the pool. These teachers include the Class teachers, Principal and English Language Support teachers. Parents may also accompany pupils, will teachers having ultimate responsibility for supervision
- The School Traffic Warden will escort the pupils and teachers across Gardiner Street when walking to the pool.
- Teachers will supervise crossing of roads by following pedestrian crossing where available and at other roads where not
- On entering the Swimming Pool building girls and boys will change in separate changing rooms
- Pupils must wear appropriate swimming clothes
- Long hair is to be tied up and NO jewellery must be worn, including religious icons, this is a strict safety policy
- All pupils must store their belongings in the baskets provided by the pool
- All pupils must use the toilet and shower before entering the swimming pool
- If a pupil needs the toilet during the lesson they must notify a teacher and/or swimming instructor and they will be accompanied by a teacher
- Pupils must walk at all times when in the changing areas, toilets and shower areas and at the poolside
- Pupils must follow the instructions given by teachers and swimming instructors at all times
- Armbands and swimming woggles are provide by the school for use in the swimming lessons, these are stored in a cupboard at Sean Mac Dermott Street pool
- Parents may observe the swimming lesson form the pool balcony only

- Parents will be reminded of the fact that the use of photography (camera, digital camera, mobile phone camera) and recording (camcorder, digital camera, mobile phone camera) is legally forbidden in all public swimming places

Swimming is an activity that requires children to change clothing. In this case the following procedures are taken to ensure protection is afforded to pupils, parents/family members, teachers and SNAs:

- A balance is struck between the pupil's right to privacy and adequate supervision, this includes consideration to gender issues where female staff are present when male pupils are changing and male staff when female pupils are changing,
- Swimming pool changing rooms with cubicles are used to change for swimming classes
- Where pupils need assistance with changing the parents are asked to come along and dress and undress their child,
- Parents unable to do so may inform the school of whom they give permission to dress and undress their child
- If an SNA is involved in assisting a pupil with changing clear boundaries will be agreed upon between the SNA, school and parent/guardian, boundaries will depend on age and needs of pupil
- Staff should avoid assisting pupils with anything that the pupil can do themselves and should assist the pupil in the central area of the changing rooms in full public view, not in the changing cubicle,
- Two staff members will be present in the changing rooms at all times
- A report of any incident should be made by following the procedures outlined in the Central Model Infant Schools Child Protection Policy
- It is an option for teachers to be in the pool with the pupils and assist the swimming instructors with the lesson
- Teachers right to privacy when changing for swimming must be ensured
- Compliance with the law forbidding the use of photography and video recording in public swimming pools is adhered to by staff, pupils and parents/guardians
- See also school Health and Safety Policy, and as with all trips outside of school a teacher will have with them a mobile telephone with the school number and first aid kit.

Each parent/guardian is informed in writing of when swimming will start for their child. The note outlines time of leaving and returning the school, recommendation of wearing school tracksuit and procedures for dressing and undressing (See Appendix I)

In line with Department of Education and Science recommendations, it is the policy of CMIS not to charge for in-school curricular activities. However, when organising the aquatics strand, this school is unable to meet the cost of running an adequate aquatics programme. As a result, the Board of Management has given permission to charge a nominal fee to each child. No child will be denied access to swimming lessons due to lack of financial resources and the School has made provision for such children to attend classes.

Appendix I

Dear parents/Guardians,

Swimming lessons for Junior Infants Room ____ (Teacher's name) will be starting on _____ (day and date)

- They will leave school at _____
- We would be glad if you could come along to help with undressing and dressing your child
- If you are unable to do so and your child needs assistance please inform the school who will assist your child
- Swimming lessons are from _____ to _____. The children will return to the school afterwards
- Children must not eat on the way to or from the pool, lunch is provide in school
- The use of photography and video recording is forbidden by law in all public swimming pools
- Children should wear tracksuits on swimming days
- The cost is €2.00 per child per session
- They will go for _____ sessions

Yours Sincerely, Máire Uí Ghormáin (Principal)

This school has a policy of prevention, procedures and best practice in the area of child protection.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on _____. It will be reviewed on an annual basis as part of our Whole School Planning Review and in line with any child protection guidelines issued to the school.