

BARNS GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL SWIMMING POLICY

OUR SCHOOL VALUES AND VISION

Barns Green Primary School

Our Values are:

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Perseverance
- Compassion
- Community
- Inclusion

Our Vision is:

Promoting independent thought and learning

Providing a broad-based education

Respecting individuality and difference

Emphasising the importance of team work

Nurturing physical health, emotional security and spiritual richness

Our pupils will learn to become self-confident, enthusiastic, resilient and tolerant.

2018

Date approved
13 July 2020

Responsible Governors
Teaching and Learning
Committee

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July 2022

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Swimming Policy

Why we provide swimming lessons at Barns Green 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]*
- *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

Tragically, drowning is still the third highest cause of accidental death in the UK, but that's not the only reason to teach your child to swim. You'll give them the gift of a lifelong enjoyable activity that will help them keep fit and healthy, as well as improve enjoyment of holidays and prepare them for a whole host of potential water sports. Swimming also offers a unique bonding experience and is one of those few leisure activities that people of all ages can do together. Huffington Post 22/07/2014

How we will organise swimming at Barns Green Primary School

Swimming at Barns Green Primary School is time tabled in the Spring term for all Year 2 pupils, plus any pupil in Year 5 or 6 who is unable to swim 25m. Children, therefore, have the opportunity to develop and improve their swimming throughout the primary phase. Swimming lessons last approximately 30 minutes and count as one of the classes' weekly PE lesson. Children are transported to the Pavilions in the Park swimming pool in Horsham by coach. These coaches are all fitted with 3 point seatbelts.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The role of the member of staff in charge:

- The welfare of children in changing room;
- Overall maintenance of good discipline;
- Counting children into and out of the building and recording these numbers so that they are visible;
- Marking the attendance register;

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- 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;

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.
- 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 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. (See Appendix 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.

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- 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 involved with swimming provision will have read the relevant BAALPE documentation.

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

Girls should wear a one-piece swimsuit and boys should wear swimming trunks (not baggy 'board shorts'). All children should wear a swim hat, with girls ensuring that

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their hair is tied up. Provision must be made for alternative attire for minority ethnic pupils when a request is made. We do not encourage beginner swimmers to wear goggles. Please see the exemplar parent information letter below:

CHILDREN WHO WISH TO WEAR GOGGLES IN A SCHOOL SWIMMING LESSON

Goggles are not needed for everyday swimming. It should be remembered that in the event of your child being involved in a hazardous water situation it is extremely unlikely that he/she would be wearing goggles. It is highly desirable therefore that your child learns to swim without being dependent on goggles.

Goggles may cause injuries even resulting in blindness if a child is knocked on the goggles when swimming or diving or putting them on and removing them. Goggles do not keep all water out of the eyes. Goggles often steam up for the first few minutes after putting them on. School swimming lessons usually last for about 30 minutes. The children swim in large numbers and sometimes in crowded conditions. Beginners do not always have full control of arm and leg movements. These factors may increase the possibility of being hit on the goggles. Goggles are held in place by tight elastic and are made of hard plastic.

The use of goggles is advisable only when there is excessive reaction to the chemicals in the water and where the swimmer is involved in lengthy training sessions. In these cases goggles may reduce the effect of contact of the eyes with the water a little. If goggles are used they should not be made of glass or breakable plastic. It is recommended that such goggles be purchased from a recognised sports equipment retailer or from local baths/leisure centres. Your child will need to be taught how to put on and remove the goggles and how to empty the water out safely: "The goggles must be held firmly with both hands each gripping the outside corner where the straps are attached. The goggles must then be pushed upwards and NEVER pulled out away from the face." If you wish your child to wear goggles in the school swimming lessons please make this request in writing to the school.

GOGGLES

I, as parent/guardian of

I acknowledge that I have received and read the notes of Advice To Parents Whose Children Wish To Wear Goggles In A School Swimming Lesson.

SignedDate.....

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Appendix 1 (Source: ASA Guidelines for Schools)

4. Teacher to Pupil Ratios

Each swimming pool will have a designated maximum bather capacity appropriate to the size of the pool and activity taking place, which should be specified in the Normal Operating Procedure (NOP).

Pupil to teacher ratios must not exceed 20:1 and, in the majority of cases, primary school swimming should be less than this.

The following ratios are based on Health and Safety considerations and quality delivery of the lesson.

	Health and Safety	Quality Delivery
Non-swimmers and beginners – Young children, normally primary school age, being introduced to swimming who are unable to swim 10 metres unaided on back or front	12:1	8:1
Children under the age of seven – Irrespective of their swimming ability group size should be restricted	12:1	8:1
Improving swimmers – Swimmers of a similar ability to each other who can swim at least 10 metres competently and unaided on their back and on their front. It is recommended that the lesson be confined to an area in which the children are not out of their depth	20:1	12:1
Mixed ability groups – Pupils with a range of abilities (from improving to competent) where the least able and least confident are working well within their depth. Swimmers techniques, stamina and deep water experience should be considered	20:1	12:1
Competent swimmers – Those swimmers who can swim at least 25 metres competently and unaided on front and back, and can tread water for two minutes	20:1	15:1
Swimmers with disabilities – Each situation must be considered individually, as people with disabilities are not a homogeneous group. Care must be taken to ensure that there are sufficient helpers in the water to provide a 1:1 ratio for those needing constant support, and a sufficient number of other helpers to provide the degree of support required by the range of disabilities within the group	8:1 with 1:1 support in the water where required	6:1 with 1:1 support in the water where required

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