# Scoil Phádraig Naofa

# 16705E

# Swimming Policy

Last Reviewed Sept 2025

**Rationale**

Scoil Phádraig Naofa has regard to both the physical and mental development of each of its pupils. Believing that a healthy body promotes a healthy mind, the school arranges for a five week course of swimming lessons in the K-Leisure Athy swimming pool, for children from 1st-6th class each year.

Swimming is a compulsory facet of the Primary School Curriculum, and attendance at this course fulfils the Aquatics Module of the PE Curriculum as laid down by the Department of Education.

**Aim/Purpose**

To enable the pupils to acquire basic swimming skills while attending Scoil Phádraig Naofa.

To comply with the requirements of the Aquatics strand of Physical Education, within the Primary School Curriculum 1999.

**Procedures Guidelines**

- All children are expected to participate in Aquatics as part of the Primary Curriculum.
- Pupils from 1st, 3rd and 5th classes will attend five sessions in the swimming pool annually.

**Informing Parents**

- The swimming sessions for classes will be booked in June of the previous year, and the relevant organisation of appropriate classes will be completed by September.
- Parents will be notified of their child's swimming lessons through an information email consisting of relevant dates, cost, changing arrangements and necessary items which are to be brought to the pool by each pupil.
- Our school swimming schedule will also appear on our school's website.

**Funding and Resources**

- Costs incurred by hiring a pool, payment of instructors and transport to and from the pool, necessitate a charge of €60 being imposed on each pupil in 1st, 3rd and 5th classes.
- A link for payment will be sent to relevant pupils through the aladdin app and payment can be made weekly or in full.
- Swimming costs are kept to a minimum through support from our school's Board of Management and Parent Council Fundraisers.
- In certain circumstances exceptions to the above procedure may be made.
- All pupils attending the swimming course should wear their full P.E uniform.
- Each child must bring a suitable bag to carry the necessary items, as outlined by the information email sent to each parent/guardian.
- Each child should have their own required items, and each item should be clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Certain items are not allowed e.g. aerosols, due to health and safety reasons.

**Exceptions**

- All children are encouraged and asked to participate in Aquatics as part of the Primary Curriculum; however, if a pupil is unable to attend swimming lessons due to a medical condition, they must provide a medical certificate.
- If a pupil must opt out of a swimming lesson due to illness or other reason, they must provide a note explaining this to their class teacher, written and signed by their parent/guardian.
- A meeting between parents and class teacher/principal may be facilitated at this stage to discuss any problems or difficulties
- If this pupil is attending school that day, they will travel with the class to the pool and remain under the supervision of the class teacher.

**Instruction**

- Instruction in the pool will be provided by swimming instructors employed by K-Leisure .

**Travel and Supervision Arrangements**

Pupils will be accompanied and supervised by their class teacher and an SNA or SET teacher (where necessary), to and from the pool. These teachers will also provide supervision before and after the swimming lessons.

In line with policy in K leisure, children are expected to dress independently and return to school after their swimming lesson.

* See Intimate Care Policy for more detail

In circumstances where it is necessary for parents to assist their child with dressing (e.g. children who attend our Rose Rooms) individual changing cubicles will be used.

**Health and Safety**

- Best practice in relation to the supervision, instruction and Child Protection procedures as outlined by Scoil Phádraig Naofa, 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 and must endeavour to obey the instructor's orders at all times and must comply with the school's Code of Behaviour.
- Teachers/SNAs/SET teachers must remain on the viewing deck during the lessons in order to supervise the overall group and pupils who may need to use the toilets during the lesson.
- The permission from parents to the school to allow their children to participate in swimming lessons is covered in the Consent Form completed on enrolment.

**Special Needs**

Where possible, all children will be included in swimming lessons. Children with special needs will be assessed on an individual basis, as to whether it is both feasible and suitable for them to attend these lessons. Where necessary they will be accompanied by an SNA at all times.

**Monitoring/Evaluation/Review**

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management in August 2024 and Reviewed Sept 2025.

The policy will be revised when deemed necessary.