

## **POLICY ON SWIMMING**

### **Aims/Purposes**

- To enable pupils from 2<sup>nd</sup> Class to 6<sup>th</sup> Class to acquire basic swimming skills while they are at St. Andrew's National School.
- To comply with the requirements of the Revised Curriculum in aquatics.
- Swimming is part of the revised primary curriculum therefore all children will be expected to attend swimming lessons.

### **Procedures Guidelines**

- Each pupil will attend a 5 week session in a swimming pool annually from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class
- The swimming pool at Clondalkin Leisure Centre has been reserved for the required weeks on Wednesdays from 12:45 – 1:45
- Costs incurred by hiring of pool, and payment of instructors necessitate a charge of approximately €50 being imposed on each pupil. Inability to pay will not preclude a pupil from participating fully in swimming classes. (This cost has to be calculated from year to year, depending on charges that may occur from the hiring of the bus.
- If a child is unable to participate in swimming due to a medical condition, the parent must inform the school by mid June of the previous school year.
- A letter must be sent to the Principal by mid-June explaining the reason. Any child who isn't attending swimming must be collected at 12pm and brought home.
- 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 must be provided by the parent.
- If a child is unable to attend swimming lesson due to an occasional illness please contact the class teacher.

### **Instructional Arrangements**

- Anna Harper will organise the swimming programme for all classes from second to sixth.
- In developing partnership with the parents in the school Anna Harper will co-ordinate the swimming sessions and inform the parents what weeks the pupils will be participating in the swimming sessions with ample notice for the children to be organized. These dates are specified on our annual school calendar.
- Instruction in the pool will be provided by coaches provided by Clondalkin Leisure Centre, with the appropriate number of coaches needed for each session.
- Clondalkin Leisure Centre will be provided with a copy of St. Andrew's National School's insurance policy at the beginning of each year.

### **Travel and Supervision Arrangements**

Pupils will be accompanied by and supervised by their class teacher/teachers and SNAs assigned to that class on the way to the pool from the school. Class teacher/teachers will provide supervision outside the changing rooms before and after the swimming lesson while the pupils are in the changing rooms and while walking to and from the bus. Two adults will be outside the changing rooms and both will be available to help if necessary. They will issue a warning prior to entry, they will then enter if required, i.e. safety issue or similar circumstance.

Teachers or SNA's will not supervise pupils on their own in the changing rooms.

# St. Andrew's National School, Lucan Co. Dublin

## **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

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.

Spray Deodorants etc. 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.

## **Monitoring / Evaluation / Review:**

Policy is revised if deemed necessary.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rev. J. Scott Peoples,  
Chairman Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_