

# ST.FELIM'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

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Roll No. 18564W

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## Swimming Policy

### Aims/Purposes

- To enable pupils to acquire basic swimming skills while they are at St Felim's National School
- To comply with the requirements of the Revised Curriculum in aquatics.
- To communicate the procedures that pupils and staff will follow at the pool

### Policy Content:

- St Felim's National School arranges for a course of swimming instruction in Bailieborough Leisure Centre, Bailieborough for pupils in First, Second, Third and Fourth class during the school year.
- Should a child be unable to attend the course, due to ill health, he/she must supply a medical certificate. Should a child be unable to attend for a lesson or lessons for any other reason they should provide the teacher with an explanation in writing. Such pupils will remain in the school in another classroom with appropriate work until the return of the class.
- Bailieborough Leisure centre will be reserved for six week blocks. Classes will run at the pool from 11-12am usually on Thursdays. These lessons are booked before the commencement of each academic year. The cost of the swimming lessons is €37. This fee may be subject to change. It covers the Cost of hiring the pool, payment of instructors, which are provided by the pool, and the cost of the transport to and from the school.

Please Note: Bailieborough Leisure Centre remains open to the public at all times, even while swimming lessons are taking place.

### Swimming Procedure

Before lessons commence:

- The school Principal will liaise with staff in Bailieborough Leisure Centre to review instruction, logistics and arrangements for the changing of clothing in advance of the commencement of swimming lessons annually.
- St Felim's N.S. will request that pupils attending lessons change in the studio changing rooms, away from the public changing rooms.
- A letter, outlining the swimming programme details, will be emailed to parents in advance of all blocks of swimming lessons. A copy of our swimming policy will be forwarded to all parents before the commencement of lessons.
- St Felim's N.S. will inform the pool of any pupil with a SEN before lessons begin.
- Class teachers will be made aware that they will inform the pool every week of the number of children attending swimming.

Please note the following arrangements:

- All children attending swimming must wear their tracksuit. Swimming togs may be worn under tracksuits coming to school. Each child should have a suitable bag to carry his/her swimming gear.
- All items brought to the pool must be clearly labelled with the child's name. This includes the tracksuits, white polo shirt, underwear etc. The school cannot accept responsibility for pupil's belongings.
- After swimming children rinse in the shower. They should not shampoo their hair as there is insufficient time to do so. Children do not have permission to bring deodorants, hairdryers, aftershave, hair gel, shampoo or conditioner.
- Pupils, while swimming are in the care of their class teachers. Parents who wish to travel to Bailieborough Leisure Centre to assist with drying and changing of their own children, or to attend to pupils with SEN may of course do so.
- All parents assisting their child/ren with dressing/undressing must use the public changing rooms.
- Children will need the following items every week: swimming shorts or swim suit, swimming hat, goggles, towels, comb, flip flops or other pool shoes, towel or dressing gown for walking from studio changing rooms to pool
- The school recommends that parents prepare their child/children for undressing/dressing after swimming lessons in advance of the lessons.
- The school recommends that all children wear their swimming costume under their tracksuit.
- Children with long/mid length hair should plait it where possible to make it easier to put on swimming hats. The school highly recommends that children with long hair bring turban towels with them and wrap their hair in them immediately after the lesson. They may wear these back to school if necessary.
- Children in first class will put on their hats and goggles in the classroom before they leave for swimming.

### **At the Pool**

- Pupils will line up at the entrance to the swimming pool and walk to the male and female studio changing rooms to prepare for swimming lessons. These changing rooms are not open to the public
- First Class pupils will all use one changing room as they may require the assistance of class teachers or SNA's.
- In all other classes boys will use the male studio changing rooms and girls will use the female studio changing rooms.
- Teachers and SNA's will supervise in the corridor outside these changing rooms. Male teachers may enter the male changing rooms and female teachers may enter the female changing rooms if necessary.
- The children will undress and put their clothes in their bags.
- Children will assemble in the corridor outside the studio changing rooms wearing their dressing gown or towel and their flip flops.

- Once ready they will walk under the guidance of their class teachers through the pool lobby. They will enter the pool at the door beside the family changing rooms where they will wait on deck for pool attendants.
- After swimming they will line up wearing their towel and/or dressing gown and flip flops, and return to the studio changing rooms where they will shower, dress and assemble in the corridor. All children will leave the pool under the guidance of their class teachers.
- Pupils who need to use the bathroom during swimming lessons must knock on the viewing area glass. The teacher will then escort them to use the bathroom beside the family changing area before returning back to the lesson.
- On return to school, children will eat their lunch.

### **Can Parents help?**

Parents who wish to come to lessons to assist their children are welcome to do so. Those who wish to change their child must do so in the public changing rooms. Parents are requested to escort their child poolside before lessons and to be ready to collect them and bring them back to public changing rooms once lessons are finished. Parents are then requested to bring children to the studio changing rooms to line up with their classmates once ready to come to school.

### **Travel Arrangements**

Pupils will travel to the pool by bus. The conditions of bus hire as set out in the school tour/excursion policy will apply.

### **Health and Safety**

Pupils are required to behave at all times in a manner that ensures the safety of all involved in school swimming. Pupils must endeavour to obey the instructor's orders at all times. The Schools Code of Behaviour applies while at the pool.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Principal and staff will implement and monitor this policy.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

This policy will be reviewed every three years as part of the schools three year review cycle, or earlier should the need arise. It will be monitored by the Principal. This policy will be effective from the beginning of the school year 2019/2020.

The policy was ratified by the Board of Management of St. Felim's N.S. on \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson – Board of Management

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Eilís Keegan –Acting Principal