

Thomas Gray Primary School
SWIMMING POLICY

Aims:

At Thomas Gray Primary School we aim to enable all our pupils to experience as much swimming as possible during school time in order for them to become competent, confident swimmers with a strong desire to continue swimming and maintain a healthy life-style in later life.

Changing:

The children will change in the group changing room or the cubicles for school children. School staff attending will support them where needed.

Children wearing stud earrings will be asked to remove them before being allowed to swim. Parents should teach their child/children to remove earrings unaided or leave the earrings at home on the day of the swimming lesson.

Girls must wear a one-piece swimsuit and Boys must wear swimming trunks (not shorts) in accordance with the swimming instructors policy.

Swimming hats must be worn by all swimmers in accordance with the swimming instructors policy.

No food or drink will be taken swimming, it is not allowed in the changing rooms.

Behaviour, Health and Safety:

The swimming pool is a place of work and should be treated as a classroom with the same rules regarding behaviour.

The duty of care remains with the school staff from leaving the school, during the swimming lesson, until they return to school with the children. School staff should not be deployed in a poolside role if they lack confidence in the role, cannot swim, or are reticent about being on the poolside. (Safe Practice Guidance). Professional responsibility for the proper supervision and conduct of the pupils at the swimming baths must rest with the class teacher.

A child with a serious condition (such as epilepsy) who is still able to participate in swimming lessons must have an adult allocated to them who will watch the child from the poolside.

When the instructor blows the whistle, there should be silence in the pool and surrounding area.

There must be No running, jumping or diving.

The swimming instructor must be informed in writing of children with any health problems e.g. asthma, epilepsy, diabetes, etc.

Children will be encouraged to:

- Use the shower as they enter the pool area;
- Use the toilet before swimming;
- Blow noses before swimming.

Children should show the teacher with them, and the swimming instructor, any cuts or grazes before changing, in order for them to decide whether they will be allowed to swim (we cannot allow open wounds in the pool for Health and Safety reasons). Children are not allowed to swim if they have a cold sore.

Children CAN swim with verrucas if treated.

School staff are responsible for knowing emergency procedures. Instructions for fire procedures are located at poolside. If an emergency occurs where the children do not get evacuated, they will follow pool staff advice. School staff will ensure that a register is taken to ensure all children are present before leaving the changing area. They will then take the register outside the building to ensure all children are still present. In the case of a fire, staff and children will follow the pool procedures and take a register outside the building.

The children will be transported to the baths in the mini buses.

Use of Swimming Goggles:

The school will follow the advice from the ASA, the STA and members of the Swimming Forum, which is as follows:

While swimming goggles may make a child feel comfortable in the pool when learning to swim, if they accidentally fall into the water it is likely that they will not be wearing them. It is vital children are comfortable swimming with or without goggles so they don't panic in an unexpected situation. To do this they need to learn to swim without goggles. It is recognised that for some children, medical or associated reasons necessitate the wearing of swimming goggles in order to participate and in these cases carers/parents should:

- write a letter explaining why the child needs to wear goggles (this letter should be backed up with a medical certificate);
- only purchase goggles that meet British Standards;
- ensure that the goggles fit the child correctly,
- ensure the child has received adequate instruction, prior to participation, as to the fitting and adjustment of goggles,
- be aware that teachers will not be responsible for the fitting of goggles to the children.

Group Sizes:

The recommendation from Sefton for KS1, but up to age 7, is 1:6, Y4 - Y6 a ratio of 1:10/15. These are benchmarks, look at individuals and staff experience.

Signed: A. P. Taylor

Chair of Governors

Date: 5/12/17

Signed: [Signature]

Headteacher

Date: 05.12.17.

Date to be reviewed: December 2020