

# SWIMMING POLICY



## Rationale:

Swimming is an integral and essential part of the physical education program. Becoming a confident and competent swimmer is essential to student safety, as well as increasing opportunities for both leisure and sporting pursuits.

## Aims:

- To develop confident and competent swimmers who display the skills and knowledge required to enjoy swimming and other aquatic activities in safety
- It is the expectation that all children attend the intensive swimming program (approximately 8 days) as it is an integral part of the Health and Physical Education program

## Implementation:

1. The school's annual swimming program will take place in term 4 and will be organised and coordinated by the designated staff member/s
2. DET student / staff ratios will apply
3. A local swimming venue (Monash University Swim School) will be responsible for organising the daily program and providing appropriately trained staff
4. School staff are responsible for the children at all times including the period of the lesson
5. A swimming attendance roll for each class is to be marked prior to the children attending their session. Staff are to take the roll to the pool each day
6. The children will receive swimming certificates at the completion of the program; these will be provided by the swimming venue
7. Children who have enrolled in the swimming program and not swimming on any particular day are expected to accompany their class and observe the lesson
8. Parents must;
  - a. complete and sign the swimming permission form for their child to participate in the program
  - b. pay a non-refundable deposit
  - c. pay all costs associated with the swimming program prior to commencement. Parents experiencing financial difficulty should contact the Principal
9. A refund for non-attendance, excluding non-refundable deposit, will only be provided on receipt of a medical certificate
10. Staff associated with the swimming program are to be made familiar with medical histories of students in respect to diabetes, asthma and other conditions that may impact on the ability of the child to participate in the swimming lesson, all relevant medication to accompany the child

11. Students with ear infections, throat infections, colds, papilloma and other contagious infections will not be permitted to enter the water until they have recovered
12. All swimmers are required to wear a named red swimming cap so that the students can be easily identified and to improve safety – these caps are available at the school for a nominal cost

***Additional information from DET to consider***

- A teacher employed by the Department or the school council must
    - be in attendance
    - have overall responsibility for the activity and legal responsibility for emergency procedures.
- Personnel**
- Other supervising staff may be approved by the principal. These may include parents/guardians, education support class officers or instructors
  - When arranging for supervision of swimming or water activities schools must take into account the age and experience of the students as well as the venue and experience of staff

Note: If special precautions are required and the school is not able to provide the necessary supervision, the parents/guardians must take responsibility for ensuring that safety requirements are met without interference with the swimming class supervision. If a student's suitability for inclusion in a school swimming program is in doubt, principals should consult the parent/guardian and the student's doctor

**A school must have a clearly written set of emergency procedures that:**

- is understood by those involved in the program
  - includes
    - rescue, resuscitation and first aid procedures
    - how to contact a doctor, ambulance or emergency service
    - the supervision and safety of all other students at the venue
  - is in harmony with the procedures used by pool owners, pool managers or rescue and life-saving patrols and outlines areas of responsibilities and organisation required to carry out a rescue and maintain student safety.
- Emergency procedures**

Note: The teacher in direct control of the swimming group is legally responsible for implementation of the procedures that may include the involvement of others who have more experience in dealing with emergencies

**Ensure that:**

- all staff are dressed appropriately to perform an immediate contact rescue
  - each staff member is positioned to account for all students in their respective swimming groups at all times
  - a 'buddy' system is used during lessons and incorporated into the emergency plan as a check of student safety
  - all staff must be prepared for and able to cope with an emergency rescue and apply CPR
  - aids such as ropes, poles and approved buoyancy devices are immediately
- Safety measures**

available at each teaching station and other places where students are swimming or diving

- swimming programs are not conducted if the water temperature is low and there is a risk of hypothermia

**Principals should ensure that:**

- supervising staff know the medical histories of students in the program, particularly with respect to epilepsy, diabetes, asthma and heart conditions
- for students with chronic illnesses:
  - obtain parent permission before the student is involved in a swimming program
  - advise the parents to obtain medical advice if there is any doubt about the student's reaction to any aspect of the program.

Conditional inclusions in a swimming program

<b>If a student has</b>	<b>Then the school may permit the student to swim if</b>
epilepsy, or any other form of medical condition involving periodic loss of consciousness	a valid medical certificate is provided by the parents stating that it is safe.  Note: Such a certificate is usually valid for 12 months, however a new certificate is required if loss of consciousness is known to have occurred. A certificate that is conditional upon special precautions should not be accepted unless the parents arrange for additional supervision and accept responsibility for the safety of their child during swimming classes; and then only if the principal is satisfied that the arrangement will not interfere in the conduct of the class.  See: <a href="#">Student Health - Epilepsy and Seizures</a> .
asthma, and may require medication before swimming and during a swimming lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the parents provide written consent of their child's participation and indicate that their doctor also has no objection</li><li>• the student's medication is available at the swimming venue</li></ul> See: <a href="#">Student Health - Asthma Kits</a> .
diabetes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the student takes extra food before activities to prevent insulin or hypoglycaemic reactions e.g. fruit, biscuits or fruit juice</li></ul> See: <a href="#">Student Health - Diabetes</a> .

**Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle

***This policy was ratified by School Council on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017***