

# 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

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**

**If a student has**

**Then the school may permit the student to swim if**

a valid medical certificate is provided by the parents stating that it is safe.

epilepsy, or any other form of medical condition involving periodic loss of consciousness

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: [Student Health - Epilepsy and Seizures](#).

asthma, and may require medication before swimming and during a swimming lesson

- the parents provide written consent of their child's participation and indicate that their doctor also has no objection
- the student's medication is available at the swimming venue

See: [Student Health - Asthma Kits](#).

diabetes

- the student takes extra food before activities to prevent insulin or hypoglycaemic reactions e.g. fruit, biscuits or fruit juice

See: [Student Health - Diabetes](#).

**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*