



**Broombridge Educate Together N.S
Swimming Policy**

April 2024

Drafted On	Ratified On	Review Date
April 2024	12th April 2024	May 2026

Introduction

This whole school policy was formulated by the staff and parents of Broombridge Educate Together N.S. in 2024 as this will be the first year our school will begin Swimming Lessons as part of Physical Education. This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Whole-School Plan and Policy for Physical Education.

Rationale

Physical Education provides children with learning opportunities through the medium of movement and contributes to their overall development by helping them to lead full, active and healthy lives. (PE Curriculum, 1999 pg.2). The purpose of this plan is to provide practical guidance for teachers, parents/guardians and other relevant persons on the delivery of the pool-based aquatics strand of the Primary School Curriculum.

Relationship to the Characteristic Ethos of the School

The Swimming Policy reflects the overall ethos of the school. Broombridge ETNS is one of a number of equality-based schools throughout the country. Our school has a distinct ethos and is defined by the following terms:

- Equality based i.e. all children having equal rights of access to the school, and children of all social, cultural and religious backgrounds being equally respected.
- Co-educational and committed to encouraging all children to explore abilities and opportunities.
- Child centered in their approach to education.
- Democratically run with active participation by parents in the daily life of school, whilst positively affirming the professional role of the teachers. (Educate Together Charter)

The Swimming Policy recognises and endeavours to adopt the values that are set out in the ethos of the school for those at work in the school. It attempts to support and sustain a harmonious environment in which the potential of all staff is nurtured through cooperation between staff, pupils, parents, board members and all other relevant parties.

Vision

We envisage that, in PE and in particular through the aquatics strand, each child will be given the opportunity to develop their physical skills and competencies to their full potential, appropriate to their age and ability and in a safe and supportive environment.

Aims

We aim through this plan, drawn up in accordance with the Primary School Curriculum, to set out our approach to Swimming, as an aspect of the Aquatics strands of the curriculum.

The Swimming Policy aims:

- To comply with the requirements of the Revised Curriculum in aquatics.
- To ensure Child Safeguarding and the dignity of children in a vulnerable situation.
- To provide clarity of rules and responsibilities.

Procedures & Guidelines

The following outlines the procedures and guidelines for swimming:

- Each pupil will have the opportunity to attend a term of 6 weeks of swimming annually in 2nd class.
- Costs incurred by Inspire Fitness Cabra (hiring of pool and payment of instructors) necessitate a charge being imposed on each pupil.
- All children attending swimming should wear clothing which they can manage themselves. Swimming togs may be worn under clothing coming to school. Each child must have a suitable bag to carry his/her swimming gear such as a sports bag or similar type of bag with a secure zip or other fastening.
- Generally, children will have sufficiently developed personal care skills to manage changing/dressing with ease by second class. Children with additional needs and who have been granted access to an Additional Needs Assistant (ANA) will be assisted by the ANA. If pupils have an intimate care plan in place this will be adapted for the duration of swimming lessons.
- The ANA is not required to enter the water with the child. It is the responsibility of the instructor, be it an individual or group instructor to teach the pupil their swimming lessons.
- It is the responsibility of the swimming instructor to decide on what swimming group level each child should be swimming with. This is determined at the first week of the swimming lesson term. The class teacher does not determine what level each child should swim with.
- The school will endeavour to have two adults (staff and/or garda vetted parents/guardians) present in each changing room to supervise the children before and after the swimming lesson. There is a separate changing room for boys and girls, these (as well as the swimming pool) are not open to the public during the school's swimming session. All adults present in the changing room must be Garda Vetted (teaching staff must be vetted by the Teaching Council, and ANAs and parent/guardian volunteers must be vetted by the school, through Educate Together National Office)
- All items brought to the pool should be clearly labelled with the child's name.

- Each child must have their own togs, towel, hair brush, goggles (if necessary) and swim cap, all of which should be marked.
- No toiletries (E.g. shampoo, shower gel, deodorant) are permitted. Hairdryers are not permitted.
- While in the pool, pupils must endeavour to obey the instructor's orders at all times and comply with the School Code of Behaviour.
- Teachers must remain on the viewing deck during the lesson in order to supervise the overall group and pupils who may need to use the toilets during the lesson. If an accompanying adult with the school is accompanying a pupil to the toilet, there must still be at least 1 adult from the school (i.e. teacher/ANA) present on the viewing deck at all times.
- Pupils will be accompanied by and supervised by a teacher on the way and from the pool. Pupils will walk to the pool and the teacher will provide supervision before and after the swimming lesson.
- Parents/carers and staff are not permitted to take photographs/videos at the swimming pool.
- To allow for the different levels of swimmers to be spread out over various sections of the pool, two class groups (2nd class) will attend at the same time.

Instructional Arrangements

The following outlines the instructional arrangements for swimming.

- The school will organise the swimming programme for 2nd class from the year 2024 onwards.
- The PSA have made contact with Inspire Fitness Cabra but from 2024 forward it will be the responsibility of the relevant class teachers alongside the post-holder for P.E. to meet in Term 1 to arrange these lessons for Term 3. This will be subject to availability at the time
- Instruction in the pool will be provided by qualified instructors at Inspire Fitness, Cabra.
- Parents/carers will receive a standard letter providing information on school swimming before their child starts their swimming term. (Appendix 1)
- All pupils must have signed permission on Aladdin in order to participate in the lessons. Failure to provide this permission will mean the child cannot participate in the lessons.

Health & Safety

- Staff will follow the guidelines of our own Health & Safety and Child Safeguarding Statement policies at all times.
- Pupils are required to behave at all times in a manner that ensures the safety of all involved in school swimming.

- The pool will be provided with information regarding any child with an Additional Educational Need, physical disability or medical diagnosis that may compromise their safety at swimming, e.g. Epilepsy, diabetes. The relevant class teacher will inform the pool of any such cases.
- If any injury or accident occurs at the pool, the lifeguard on duty will attend to the injury. Any incident reports completed by the swimming pool staff will be copied and brought back to the school.
- Staff from the school who are supervising swimming are expected to communicate any concerns regarding health and safety of the pupils to the swimming pool staff and the school management.
- Pupils who require the support of arm-bands for swimming must bring their own, and parents/guardians must make school staff aware of this.
- While pool-based aquatics activities are being undertaken, the school will use discretionary time to facilitate this programme, in order to cover the time travelling to and from the swimming pool.
- Insurance cover for pool-based aquatics activities is provided by the school's Insurance Company (Brady Insurance), who provide a letter of indemnity to the school/ Inspire Fitness Cabra annually.

Success Criteria

The criteria for evaluating the success of this policy will be:

- That the school community are clear about and are committed to the principles that are outlined in this policy and correct procedures are being implemented.
- That positive feedback from members of the school community (teachers, pupils, ANAs, parents/guardians) is received.
- That positive feedback from Inspire Fitness Cabra is received.
- That the children are developing skills and progressing in relation to the aquatics strand of the PE curriculum.
- The maximum participation by all children.

Implementation

(a) Roles & Responsibilities

The school's post holder for P.E., and the relevant class teachers are responsible for the implementation of this swimming policy, overseen by the principal and the Board of Management.

(b) Timeframe

This policy will be implemented in the year 2024.

Review

This policy will be reviewed in May 2026 when we will reflect meaningfully on how well the aquatics programme has been taught and received in the school. The policy will be reviewed at an earlier date should a need arise.

Ratification & Communication

The attention of all newly appointed staff will be drawn to these documents upon their appointment to the school by the post holder for PE . This policy will be published on the school website and provided to the Parent Staff Association. A copy of this policy will be made available to the Department of Education and Skills and the Patron, if requested. Hard copies of this, and all school policies, are available at the school on request.

Signed: *Trish Duffy* (Chairperson, BOM)

Signed: *Eibh Ni Mhordha* (School Principal)

Date: April 12th 2024