

Sandfield Close Primary School

Swimming Policy 2026-2027



Policy Date:	September 2026	Version	1.0	
Policy Review Date:	September 2027	Smita Lad	Signed:	Date: 14 th Oct 2026
Ratified by Governing Body:	14 th October 2026		Signed:	Date: 14 th Oct 2026

Swimming Policy

Introduction:

This policy outlines the purpose, aims, management and progression of Swimming at Sandfield Close Primary School in line with Leicester City Council's 'Safe Swimming Practice in Schools and Other Settings' (June 2026) and 'School Swimming Guidance' (2026/27) documents. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all school staff involved in the teaching or supervising of swimming.

Core Beliefs:

- To provide a meaningful and safe swimming experience for children.
- To reinforce the stated aims of the school in relation to Physical Education; the personal and social development of children and their health and well-being.
- To meet the requirements of the National Curriculum.

Rationale:

All schools must provide swimming instruction either in Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2. In particular, pupils should be taught to swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres, use a range of strokes effectively such as front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke and perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations."

National Curriculum for England and Wales; Physical Education 2014

Organisation:

At Sandfield Close Primary School swimming takes place on a Thursday afternoon. Year 5 will go swimming for the first 16 weeks and then Year 4 will go for the next 16 weeks. The children will go swimming once a week for 16 weeks of the year at the swimming pool at Cossington Street Leisure Centre. This will ensure continuity and progression for these children during the 16 sessions. They will have a 30 minute lesson once a week. Groups for swimming will be organised according to pupil ability following an initial assessment by the swim teacher when each class starts. Groupings may change as children progress. All swim sessions are led by qualified swim teachers.

Role and Expectations of School Staff:

All school staff involved in the activity of school swimming will be familiar with the Normal Operating Procedure (NOP) and Emergency Action Plan (EAP). They will all have a copy of the school swimming policy and risk assessment. All poolside staff will have had an induction and a dry swim test. The wet test is compulsory for those teaching a group or supporting individuals that need in pool support. Sessional registers will be taken for each swim session. Children are not permitted to enter the poolside without an appropriate level of lifeguarding. A lifeguard must be able to observe the water at all times and remain on the poolside at all times.

Clothing and Attire:

Suitable attire must be worn for swimming by both children and staff that conforms to safety, cultural and teaching requirements. Staff must wear a T-shirt and shorts over their swimming attire if going into the pool. Children can only wear goggles during swimming if parents have completed the permission slip. No jewellery must be worn during swimming sessions. In some cases where religious items cannot be removed they need to be firmly covered up and parents will be asked to complete consent forms. Children will not be excluded from swimming because of verrucae or similar foot infections. Swimming can continue provided a verruca sock covers the infected area. Spare kit will be provided if a child forgets their swimming kit.

Changing Rooms:

The children change in same gender pairs in the cubicles that are located along both sides of the pool. The 3 members of staff wait outside while the children change. All members of staff will be DBS checked and have undergone Safeguarding training.

Risk Assessment:

All school staff will be familiar with and have a copy of the risk assessment for school swimming (including the journey to and from it). This will be monitored by the school's swimming co-ordinator. The risk assessment will include details of hazards, risk potential and control measures including supervision arrangements (on the journey, during changing and in the pool), lifeguarding, ratios for specific groups, specific needs of children and qualification and expectations of all staff leading or supporting school swimming.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion:

All children have equal access to the swimming curriculum regardless of race, gender or ability and in line with the school's policies on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Gifted and Talented children. Equal access to all aspects of the swimming programme will be available to all children. Any child with special educational needs will participate in all activities as far as possible according to his/her abilities, in consultation with the Special Needs Co-ordinator, parents and any special needs personnel.

Assessment and Record Keeping:

The swimming ability of the pupils will be assessed and recorded by the swim teacher. Records will be kept of the progress of individual pupils throughout the year.

Review:

This is a working document and as such will be reviewed as and when needed.

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Headteacher: Smita Lad