

Ashbourne CNS – Swimming Policy

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Swimming Policy

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1. Overview

Ashbourne CNS is a multi - denominational, co - educational primary school under the patronage of Louth and Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB), a leader in educational provision and the patron of the largest range of schools and educational programmes in Counties Louth and Meath. As a multi - denominational school, Ashbourne CNS accepts students of all faiths and of none. The medium of instruction at the school is English. Ashbourne CNS is a mainstream school which commenced with enrolling students from Junior infants to 6th class in September 2019.

Our vision for Ashbourne CNS is of a welcoming, inclusive, diverse and dynamic school that provides a quality learning experience with the learner as core. This vision is linked to the LMETB high level strategic goal included in LMETB's Strategy Statement 2017 – 2021 'Excellence in Education and Training to Achieve, Progress and Innovate'.

Students at Ashbourne CNS will feel a sense of belonging and will develop a love of learning through a positive and happy school experience. Students will be motivated and provided with opportunities to become active and responsible participants in their own learning. The school community will work with all partners and stakeholders to prepare knowledgeable and socially responsible citizens for the future.

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1.1 Clarification of Key Terms used in this document

LMETB: Louth Meath Education and Training Board

CNS: Community National School

PE: Physical Education

SET: Special Education Teacher

SNA: Special Needs Assistant

2. Purpose

The primary purpose of this policy is to ensure safety of pupils and staff during school-led swimming lessons. It has a secondary purpose to ensure that swimming lessons run smoothly and consistently between year groups.

3. Scope

This policy applies to teachers, pupils' parents, principal, ISM for the duration of school led swimming lessons.

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4. Policy

4.1 General

- Swimming lessons are organised by the School's PE committee.
- Swimming lessons are scheduled in a block of 6 weeks for 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th classes.
- Parents and children are given written notice of lessons at least four weeks prior to commencement.
- Letters are distributed to each child by the class teacher. Follow up letters should be sent weekly until confirmation received.
- LMETB permission slip must be used.
- Issues with individual children and parents are brought to the attention of the PE committee and efforts are made to find resolutions.
- Occasionally, where additional needs present, children may require extra supervision during swimming lessons. This decision will be made in consultation between parents, PE committee, ISL, and class teacher.
- Children with injuries or other factors preventing them from participating in the class may come to the pool and sit poolside.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child has any prescribed medicines in their possession when they attend swimming lessons. Please see Policy and Procedure for the Administration of Medicines in Louth and Meath ETB Schools and Centres for further information.

4.2 Travelling to & from the pool

- Children will leave school on time for the class, the class will not wait for individual children.
- Children who are late will come to school and be supervised in another class until their class returns.
- The rolla will be completed before leaving the school grounds and dropped into the school office if completed by hard copy.
- Teachers bring a copy of the rolla to the swimming pool.
- Children and adults travel to the swimming pool via walking.
- Children are brought by a teacher through the entrance, past reception towards the changing rooms.
- The children are brought to the showers (girls/boys separately) and then children are directed poolside.
- Headcounts should be completed at school before leaving, at pool before entering, at pool before leaving and on arrival back to the school.

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4.3 Supervision of the pool

- All children must wear a swimming costume and a hat. Bikinis/two-piece costumes are not allowed.
- Contact must be made with parents of children who bring in unsuitable attire. If a child brings the unsuitable costume to school again, they may not enter the water.
- Children who wish to wear additional clothing may do so provided it is light in weight.
- All pupils must walk, and walk only, at pool side. No running is permitted.
- A minimum of two adults must remain poolside at all times.
- All adults must be present at the end of the lesson when children are exiting the pool.
- If children need to go to the bathroom during the lesson they must be accompanied by an adult, the adult can check the bathrooms beside the pool are not being used by any members of the public and then wait outside the door.
- Children shower and then as a group walk back to the changing rooms.
- At least one staff member must carry a mobile phone to alert the school in case of emergency.

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5. Roles and Responsibilities

The PE committee is responsible for the implementation and communication of the swimming policy, along with updating as needed.

5.1 Ashbourne CNS Staff

Ashbourne CNS staff members involved with the creation of this policy are the PE Committee 2022-23. Class teachers, SET and SNA's along with any other adults attending swimming lessons will be responsible for ensuring familiarity with the swimming policy and implementing the policy in practice.

5.2 Principal

Principal is responsible for the day-to-day management of the school and is accountable to the Board of Management for the implementation of the swimming policy.

5.3 Board of Management

The Board is responsible for ratification of the swimming policy.

Chairperson of the Board on the date of its ratification by the Board signs the policy document.

6. Policy Review

The policy will be reviewed every two years or at any point that a review is needed, including but not limited to: change in swimming venue or change in class groups attending.

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7. Appendices

Policy and Procedure for the Administration of Medicines in Louth and Meath ETB Schools and Centres