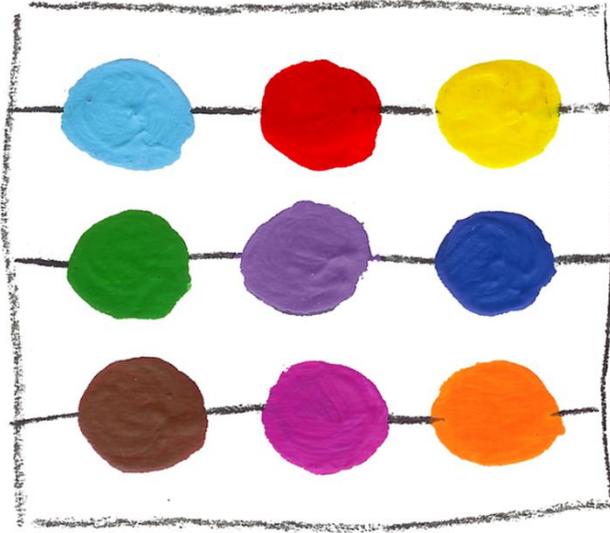


# Swimming Policy



*Carrigaline Educate Together N.S.*

This document is intended to provide details of the main policies of Carrigaline Educate Together National School (CETNS). It is intended to help parents and guardians understand the environment and approach of the school. This document is regularly reviewed. All feedback is encouraged and welcome.

<b>Version</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Authors</b>
February 2018	First version of policy	Board of Management

**School Contact Details**

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# Swimming Policy

## Introduction

This policy is the result of the collaboration of the Policy Committee, together with the Board of Management

## Rationale

The school has regard to both the physical and mental development of each of its pupils. Believing that a healthy body promotes a healthy mind, the school arranges for a six week course of swimming instruction in the Mayfield Sports Complex swimming pool for students from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class during the school year. The staff identified the need for a policy to ensure the well-being of staff and children when partaking in swimming.

## Relationship to the Characteristic Spirit of the School

The Swimming Policy reflects the overall ethos of the school which states: Carrigaline Educate Together N.S. is one of a number of multi-denominational schools throughout the country. The representative organisation for these schools is 'Educate Together'.

Educate Together aims to meet a growing need in Irish society for schools that recognise the developing diversity of Irish life and the modern need for democratic management structures. In particular, Educate Together guarantees children and parents of all faiths and none equal respect in the operation and governing of education.

The schools operated by the member associations of Educate Together are fully recognised by the Irish Department of Education and Science and work under the same regulations and funding structures as other national schools. However, they have a distinct ethos or governing spirit. This has been defined in 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 their full range of abilities and opportunities,
- **Child centred** in their approach to education
- **Democratically run** with active participation by parents in the daily life of the school, whilst positively affirming the professional role of the teachers (*Source: Educate Together Charter*)

Whilst the concepts of child-centeredness and co-educationalism are now widely accepted in Irish primary education, what distinguishes the Educate Together schools is their hard work in developing a culturally inclusive and democratic ethos. This has pioneered unique approaches to inclusion of minority opinions and faiths in the Irish context.

The schools have developed education programmes which open the eyes of children to the naturally positive contribution that social, religious and cultural diversity and difference of viewpoint and opinion make to society.

The other characteristic feature of these schools is that they are democratically organised and governed. This maximises the potential for building a genuine partnership between the professional, objective role of the teacher and the necessarily personal involvement of the parent in contributing to their children's education.

*Information taken from the Educate Together website [www.educatetogether.ie](http://www.educatetogether.ie)*

Carrigaline Educate Together N.S. makes the distinction between denominational education and moral/religious education. The ethical curriculum followed by the school is called the Learn Together Curriculum. It is comprised of four strands: Morality & Spirituality, Equality & Justice, Belief systems, Ethics & the environment.

Denominational instruction is facilitated by the school insofar as groups are permitted to use the school premises. This is organised by parents outside of school hours.

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 the co-operation between staff, pupils, parents, board members and all other relevant parties.

### **Aims**

The Swimming Policy aims:

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

## **Procedures and Guidelines**

- Each pupil will have the opportunity to attend a term of six weeks of swimming lessons annually from Second to Sixth Class.
- Costs incurred by hiring of pool, transport to and from 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 who do not have special needs will have sufficiently developed personal care skills to manage changing/dressing with ease. Children with special needs and who have been granted access to a Special Needs Assistant (SNA) will be assisted by the SNA.
- The SNA 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 special needs 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 present in each dressing room to supervise the children before and after the swimming lesson.
- 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 (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.
- Children are required to comply with the School Code of Behaviour throughout any outing to the swimming pool.
- Teachers will 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.
- Pupils will be accompanied by and supervised by a teacher on the way to and from the pool. Pupils will travel by bus to the pool and the teacher will provide supervision before and after the swimming lesson.
- To allow for the different levels of swimmers to be spread out over various sections of the pool two class groups will attend at the same time.

## **Instructional Arrangements**

- The school will organise the swimming programme for all classes from Second to Sixth Class.
- Instruction in the pool will be provided by qualified instructors.

## **Health and 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. Pupils must endeavour to obey the instructors and teachers orders at all times and comply with the School Code of Behaviour.
- Parents/guardians will receive a standard letter providing information on school swimming before their child starts their swimming term.
- All pupils must have a signed permission slip by a parent in order to participate in swimming lessons. Failure to provide this signed permission slip means that the child cannot participate.
- Teachers should 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.
- The pool will be provided with information regarding any child with a Special Educational Need, physical disability or medical diagnosis that may compromise their safety at swimming, eg. Epilepsy, diabetes.
- 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.

## **Success Criteria**

Our Swimming Policy will be seen to be working well when:

- The school community are clear about and are committed to the principles that are outlined in this policy and correct procedures are being implemented.
- Positive feedback from members of the school community (teachers, pupils, SNAs, parents) is received.
- positive feedback from Mayfield Sports Complex is received.

## **Roles and Responsibility**

The Board of Management, Principal, teachers, SNAs have both a role and a responsibility in successfully implementing this policy.

The policy will be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis by the policy committee.

## **Implementation Date**

This policy was implemented in March 2018. Amendments will be implemented immediately.

## **Timetable for Review**

This policy is to be reviewed during the school year 2020/2021

## **Ratification and Communication**

The policy will be communicated to members of the Board of Management prior to the meeting of the BOM on 12th March 2018 . Parents will be made aware in the next school communication that the policy is available for viewing by appointment in school or alternatively online at: [www.carrigalineeducatetogether.ie/publications](http://www.carrigalineeducatetogether.ie/publications)

Date of ratification: 12th March 2018

*Signed:* \_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRPERSON OF BOM

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_