

SWIMMING INSTRUCTION and WATER SAFETY EDUCATION POLICY

RATIONALE:

To develop confident and competent swimmers who display the skills, knowledge and confidence required to enjoy swimming and other aquatic activities safely.

AIMS:

- To develop a sense of water awareness
- To promote water safety, fitness, health and wellbeing
- To foster independence and team work
- To reinforce, enrich and extend learning opportunities beyond the classroom

IMPLEMENTATION:

- The Swimming and Water Safety program is included in the Health and Physical Education curriculum with four specific focus areas:
 - Fundamental movement skills
 - Safety
 - Lifelong physical activities
 - Challenge and adventure activities.
- The school's annual swimming program is offered to all students in Foundation to Year 2.
- The Health and Safety component of the Health and Physical Education curriculum, as well as the Camping Program in Years 3 – 6 build on water safety knowledge and skills.
- The swimming program will follow the Victorian Water Safety Certificate which describes specific competencies that should be achieved.
- These competencies focus on water safety knowledge, rescue skills, survival sequences and the ability to swim a continuous distance.
- The swimming program will be organised and coordinated by the Physical Education teacher, or an appointed coordinator, and will involve the use of a nearby aquatic centre, and will comply with Department of Education (DE) requirements at all times.
- When booking or renewing the Aquatic Swim Centre for the following year, assurance must be guaranteed the Aquatic centre is properly accredited and licensed to teach a swimming program. A copy of the swimming school's accreditation must be sited by Findon Primary School.
- All swimming instructors must be qualified AUSTSWIM Teachers of Swimming and Water Safety (certificate and current CPR qualifications need to be made available upon request).
- Findon staff will be in attendance at all times, to oversee the implementation of the program. School staff will supervise with transporting groups to and from the venue, and changing in the change rooms.
- Minimum overall DE staff to student ratios will be followed at all times.
- The Aquatic centre will staff the program with a maximum of 1:10 ratio.
- The program will consist of 8 x 1 hour lessons within an intensive program over a two week period.
- A venue emergency drill will be explained and practised at the start of the program, and throughout the program.
- Student progress, achievement levels, reports and certificates are coordinated by the aquatic centre in consultation with Findon staff.
- Parents/Caregivers must give permission for their child to participate in the swimming program via COMPASS.
- Learning Team managers will run through swimming rules and procedures with staff at team meetings prior to the commencement of the swimming program and familiarise themselves with Findon's swimming process and policy. Swimming processes and procedures will also be communicated to families and students.
- Staff associated with the swimming program are to become familiar with medical histories of students in respect to epilepsy, diabetes, anaphylaxis, asthma, heart conditions and students

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with additional needs, with appropriate measures taken. (See SOTF Reference Guide 4.4.4.7 – Swimming: medical warnings).

- Students with papillomas and other contagious infections will not be permitted to attend the program until they have recovered.
- Students involved in the swimming program who choose not to participate on any given day will still attend the swimming program as observers.
- A First Aid kit and student medications (e.g. Epipens) are to be available for use. The First Aid Kit is to travel down to the pool with the first group and be returned with the last group of students. Individual student medications and administration is the responsibility of the supervising teachers.
- The teachers in charge must keep a clear and accurate roll of the swimming group before travelling to and leaving the centre. A list of swimming and non swimming students will be forwarded to the office before departure.
- Students must be accompanied by a Findon staff member in the change rooms. Parents/ Caregivers who have a valid 'Working with Children Check' are required to display their badge at all times and may assist in the change rooms. Staff will ensure that all Parents/Caregivers adhere to this requirement.
- Signs will be displayed in the pool area to enforce expectations of parents/caregivers who are observing the lessons.
- If a student needs to leave the pool for any reason, they must inform their instructor and a teacher. All students must be supervised by a teacher to the toilet and change rooms.
- Attending staff are required to take a mobile phone. If a problem or emergency arises, staff will inform the school of the issue and assist with resolving any difficulties.
- Students are to be made aware of a common assembly point after changing and should not leave the change rooms unless instructed by the supervising teachers on duty. Students are required to remain with the teacher in the change rooms until all students are ready to return to school. For safety reasons students are not permitted back onto the pool concourse after changing.
- All Foundation to Year 2 students are expected to participate in the Swimming Program. All efforts will be made to provide a program that is inclusive of all and meets the individual needs of all students.
- An alternative program for students not attending swimming will be arranged.

COMMUNICATION:

This policy will be communicated to the school community via:

- the school website
- COMPASS
- the school newsletter
- the school office
- induction processes
- staff briefings
- individual discussion with students and families
- assembly (where relevant).

EVALUATION:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the ongoing three year review process.

REFERENCES:

Schools of the Future Reference (SOTF Reference Guide 4.4.4.7 – Swimming: medical warnings)
DE website
DE – Swimming Instruction and Water Safety Education Toolkit
Life Saving Victoria
Excursions Policy
Parent Payment Policy
Victorian Curriculum F-10 - Health and Physical Education Program
SRP Targeted Initiatives, Swimming In School (Reference 115)