

Bennekerry National School Swimming Policy

Swimming is part of our P.E. curriculum. Therefore, it is expected that all children will attend the lessons organized through the school, with the exception of those advised not to do so on medical grounds. In such cases, the school should be supplied with evidence of the medical condition in question.

Children travel to and from Graiguecullen Swimming Pool by bus. In the event that additional seating capacity is required, the school hires a taxi from Carlow Cabs. Pupils are under the supervision of school staff and /or qualified swimming instructors at all times.

The P.E. uniform should be worn on swimming days. A swimming cap and goggles are required in the pool. It is essential that all items of clothing and equipment are clearly marked with the student's name. Aerosol sprays are not allowed.

All pupils from 1st to 5th Classes are expected to be able to dry and dress themselves independently. 1st and 2nd class pupils will benefit from a few drying and dressing practice sessions at home after their bath or shower. A small hand towel is useful for standing on to dry feet. It is generally easier for girls to manage long hair if it is tied up in a ponytail or plait.

In line with Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (DES 2013) and Garda Vetting Requirements, parents of our pupils are not permitted to enter the communal dressing rooms at the pool during the school's designated swimming slot. In order to comply with current best practice, teachers have been directed not to assist children with drying or dressing with the exception of helping them put on their caps and/or goggles, if necessary. Only children who have been officially designated SNA access by the DES may be assisted by school staff.

In exceptional circumstances, the parent of a pupil who is unable to change independently may contact the class teacher with a written request to use a separate cubicle for the purpose of assisting his /her child. On arrival at the pool, the senior class pupils will be given priority access to all the available cubicles.

Parents are kindly requested not to attend the swimming pool as spectators during the swimming lessons due to the fact that an audience can be very distracting for some of the children and may very well be counter-productive as far as pupil progress is concerned.

Cost: €50 per pupil for eight lessons. This includes the hire of the pool, the bus and fully qualified swimming instructors.

This fee may be paid in installments over the 8 week course.

(In cases of financial difficulties, parents are asked to make contact with the principal in total confidence.)

Time: Wednesdays 12 noon – 1pm

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on the 19th of October 2016.

Chairperson : *Edmund Burke*

Principal: *María Doyle*