



CAVERSHAM PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Swimming Policy

At Caversham Park Primary School, swimming is taught in accordance with the National Curriculum. Swimming instruction will be provided in Year 6 (2026-2027) and will take place in a block of 10 lessons. This will take place at Rivermead swimming pool and will be carried out in line with the Safe Practice in School Swimming and Water Safety document.

Our objective is for all pupils to be able to:

1. Swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres
2. Use a range of strokes effectively (e.g. front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke)
3. Perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations

Families will give written consent for their child to go swimming and a subsidised voluntary contribution requested.

The swimming instructors will assess the ability of each child and place them in a teaching group to extend their skills in all areas of water confidence and swimming.

Safe Practice in School Swimming and Water Safety

Although swimming is an enjoyable but important life skill, it carries with it danger and requires utmost care by all concerned. This document is a summary of the important key points to note when taking children swimming.

Before the visit, you should be aware of:

- Risk assessment for the pool and session used. Individual risk assessment if taking children with disabilities.
- Normal Operating Procedure (e.g. designated number of bathers capacity for pool). A copy should be held at the school.
- Emergency Action Plan.
- Conditions of hire – if relevant.
- Pool rules.
- Any additional needs or medical conditions of pupils.
- Primary school teachers, where possible, should accompany their own class as they carry specialist knowledge of their pupils.
- It is essential to have other non-teaching staff (DBS vetted) to assist on the visit.
- Parents who accompany the class to the swimming pool are asked not to remain in the changing area, but wait at poolside.

During the visit:

- Teaching staff (i.e. Class teacher, Classroom Support Staff) have a duty of care whilst on the visit that cannot be transferred to anyone else. This relates to supervising children changing, that pupils are under control at all times, headcounts, normal and emergency procedures enforced and teachers have an overview of teaching of their children and conduct of the class.
- There must be a qualified pool lifeguard present during the session. Teachers must work with the lifeguard to ensure safe conduct at all times. The best qualified teacher/instructor should teach the least able pupils.
- The school always provides at least one first aider.
- Teacher / pupil ratios: 1:8 or less for all of the following groups
 - Non-swimmers and beginners

- Children under 7 irrespective of ability
- Improving swimmers
- Mixed ability group
- Competent swimmers
- 1:1 ratio for those needing constant support / disabilities.

Changing

When using mixed changing facilities, staff of either gender can supervise. If using open plan single sex changing areas, if possible, only staff of appropriate gender should enter. However, as the school is female dominant, then a female member of staff will have to supervise the boys changing room. These members of staff will be DBS checked, have child protection training and understand how to safeguard themselves.

Qualifications

School staff are only involved in a supervisory role and adequate qualified teachers and lifeguards are present who have specific and relevant qualifications. If an incident or accident occurs at the pool, the school must take a copy and keep a record for future inspections.

Swimming Attire

Pupils should wear appropriate costumes relatively tight fitting and swimming hats. Teachers should wear suitable indoor footwear and clothes suitable for humidity.

Verruca socks should be worn if a child has a foot infection. Goggles can be used but children must be taught how to put them on / off correctly by the swimming instructor.

Pool Rules

The pool rules should be explained to all pupils before their first swimming lesson. Pupils should be reminded at the start of each term, ideally when the emergency procedures are tested and checked with pupils.

- Never go onto poolside until a member of staff is present
- Do not enter the water until instructed to do so
- No running on poolside
- No chewing gum or eating sweets or other food on poolside
- No shouting or whistling
- No jumping in or diving in, except under instruction
- No pushing others in
- No holding others under the water or deliberately splashing them
- No jewellery to be worn
- No outdoor shoes on poolside
- Swim caps to be worn if requested
- To leave the pool on one long blast of the whistle
- All instructions from staff to be obeyed

Policy Date	Review Date
September 2026	September 2027