



Swimming Policy

2025

Government of Jersey policies

St Luke's school works within the framework of the Government of Jersey policies and codes of practice. Please access the latest published copies of these via the link below:

[Children, Young People, Education and Skills Policies \(gov.je\)](https://www.gov.je/children-young-people-education-and-skills-policies)

Introduction

The aim of this document is to provide advice and guidance to support our school swimming provision. It is based on good practice and adheres to recommendations made by national bodies such as the Association for Physical Education (afPE), and the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA).

Curriculum Requirements

The importance of teaching children to swim has been recognised within education for some time. The most recent National Curriculum for Schools (2014) has continued to reflect this within the Programme of Study for Physical Education.

The requirements of this curriculum state that, to achieve the swimming attainment targets, pupils should be taught to:

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

Expectations

The school swimming experience is more than just the swimming itself. Being able to organise kit, change in a timely fashion, behave appropriately in a public facility (where used), and working in the pool as teams, pairs and individuals, are all important elements of school swimming.

Those children who arrive having already met the Expected Standard in the National Curriculum (NC) can then continue to progress through stroke improvement, personal survival and safety work. At the same time, there will be pupils for whom the school swimming programme will be their first experience of swimming; they are beginners and need to be taken through the process appropriate to this stage in their learning. Approaching learning in swimming in the same way as other learning is important in maintaining the correct attitude and status to the activity.

Duty of Care

- At all times during school swimming lessons, the school retains duty of care for its pupils.
- Swimming teaching staff are responsible for delivering safe and effective teaching but do not have overall duty of care for the pupils, this remains with the school staff.
- The swimming teaching staff, or lifeguards may take responsibility for effecting a rescue but the responsibility for the pupils remains with the school



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- Where assistant school staff attend the swimming sessions but do not take part in the teaching, they should remain on the poolside and assist if required. It is an expectation that at least one member of school staff remains on the poolside throughout the lesson.

Clothing for school swimming / Religious and cultural issues

Clothing for schools swimming should:

Be suitable for purpose: Girls— a one-piece costume, Boys— swimming trunks that are not longer than the knee

Meet safety requirements: Clothing is relatively tight fitting, allowing freedom for body and limb movement, whilst minimising the effect of drag in the water. Swimming caps should be worn, particularly over long hair, to avoid obscuring vision, and to reduce hair becoming trapped in filters and grilles. As with all PE lessons, jewellery should be removed.

Aid teaching: Enable the teacher to see the limb movements of the pupils to assess appropriate learning.

Be suitable for staff: Swimming instructors should change into appropriate footwear, or have bare feet to allow them to move easily around the poolside. Their clothing should be suitable for working in a humid environment, and should reflect the possibility of having to enter the water to rescue a pupil, subject to the emergency operating procedures, and roles and responsibilities during the session. Specialist Staff or helpers for pupils who require specialist support in the water, should wear a t-shirt over a swimming costume.

Given the diversity of cultures of pupils in schools, there is frequently a need to consider different cultural requirements. This can be the case in school swimming lessons. The following issues can arise:

Clothing: Only looser fitting clothing may be allowed, and that which covers most of the body. Culturally appropriate swimwear is available to buy. Sensitivity needs to be shown in this case, whilst explaining the requirement for safety.

Ramadan: Reassure children who become anxious having accidentally swallowed water during Ramadan. This is never intentional and should not be a reason to avoid swimming at this time.

Meeting the curriculum statutory provision: As a statutory part of the curriculum, schools are required to meet the requirements of swimming provision, and should not therefore provide an option for pupils to be excluded from the lesson. This being the case, every possible action should be taken to enable religious and cultural needs to be understood met.