



BISHOPS TAWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Swimming and water safety lessons Policy

Swimming is a vital life skill, It is important that personal survival skills are taught. At Bishops Tawton Primary School swimming is taught in accordance with the National Curriculum. Students should understand the effects and dangers of cold water, their ability to assess a survival situation and the application of the principles of personal survival.

Swimming instruction will be provided in years 3 and 4 and will take place in a block of 10 lessons. This will take place at North Devon Leisure Centre 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:

- 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.

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.

Swimming Attire

Pupils should wear appropriate costumes relatively tight fitting, No bikinis or board shorts. We recommend children wear swimming caps.

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 before they start lessons. Goggles will not be worn when the children are taking part in the water safety aspect of lessons.

Financial contribution

In order to support the school families will be written to; asking for information on their child's swimming ability and requesting a subsidised voluntary contribution. PE sports premium funding pays for transport, the school budget share will subsidise part of the cost and parents are asked to contribute to the remaining balance (Currently £40 for 10 sessions)

Why should children take part in the school lessons if they can already swim competently?

Private swimming lessons differ from the national curriculum which focuses more on water safety and self-rescue skills. Even if the child is a confident swimmer, they may not be aware of the different types of water and what to do if they get into trouble. As its part of the National Curriculum it is therefore mandatory that every child takes part in primary school swimming and water safety sessions so we can be sure that every child in the country has these important skills.