



Swimming and Water Safety Policy

(Ratified by School Council: August 2013)

PURPOSE:

The swimming program aims to provide all students with the opportunity to learn basic survival swimming skills and to gain an awareness of water safety issues; in and around water. The program should provide students with the knowledge and confidence to participate in aquatic activities.

GUIDELINES:

- The swimming program must follow DEECD guidelines as set out on the **School Policy and Advisory Guide “Swimming Supervision and Water Safety”**. Source: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/swimming.aspx>
- Programs should include a sequence involving: swimming; water safety; survival techniques; rescue and emergency procedures.
- The swimming program will be a compulsory part of the school curriculum.
- Parental permission is required for attendance.
- Levels of achievement for each student will be kept on record by the school.
- Upon completion of the swimming component of the course, students shall receive a certificate from the swim school.
- Swimming is an integral part of the Physical Education program.
- Prep to Year 6 students will be involved in programs appropriate to their ability level.
- A completed Medical and Permission form must be obtained before students can be included in the swimming program.
- Students may seek exemption from the program through proof of current enrolment in a certified swimming program. These students will then participate in the water safety lessons conducted on the school premises.
- For the duration of the swimming program, non-swimmers shall participate in a water safety program conducted by staff on school premises.
- Evaluation will be undertaken after each program and staff shall review and monitor the effectiveness of the swimming program.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Personnel

- A teacher employed by the Department or the School Council must
 - be in attendance
 - have overall responsibility for the activity and legal responsibility for emergency procedures.
- Other supervising staff must be approved by the Principal. These may include parents/guardians, education support class officers, instructors or employees of swimming pools.
- When arranging for supervision of swimming or water activities schools must take into account the age and experience of the students as well as the venue and experience of staff.

Qualifications

All swimming programs

All supervising staff (directly involved in delivering water-based sessions) must be capable and have the knowledge and skills:

- to teach swimming and water safety
- for emergency rescue and cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), such as Level 2 First Aid

Note: Appropriate levels of competence are the rescue and CPR requirements specified in the certificates for:

- AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety
- Life Saving Victoria
- Surf Life Saving Victoria Resuscitation.

At a swimming pool or a natural water shallow and confined venue

One staff member must hold an AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety Certificate and, where possible, a second staff member should hold the same certificate.

At an open deep water venue

All staff must hold an AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety Certificate and at least one staff member must hold a current:

- Patrol Bronze Medallion of the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia
- Community Surf Lifesaving Certificate of Life Saving Victoria.

At a surf beach

All staff must hold an AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety Certificate, and at least one staff member must hold one of the following, a current:

- Patrol Bronze Medallion of the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia
- Community Surf Lifesaving Certificate of Life Saving Victoria.

POLICY EVALUATION:

Evaluation will be conducted biannually by the Policy Review (Education) Sub Committee of the School Council.

DUE DATE FOR REVIEW:

Due for review in August 2015.