



## Swimming and Water Safety Policy

*(Ratified by School Council: August 2015)*

### **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 DET 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 every two years by the Policy Review (Education) Sub Committee of the School Council.

## **DUE DATE FOR REVIEW:**

Due for review in August 2017.