



CAULFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

SWIMMING POLICY

POLICY NO. 2.6

Rationale

Victorian primary schools must conduct physical and sport education for the mandated time for all students. The mandated times are:

- For years P–3: 20–30 minutes of physical education a day.
- For years 4–6: 3 hours per week of physical education and sport with a minimum of 50% of that time for physical education.

Swimming is an integral and essential part of the physical education curriculum. It is also included in the draft of the new national curriculum and as such will likely soon form part of the compulsory curriculum.

Over the past 10 years the aquatic industry has observed a decline in the swimming skills of children and teenagers and this has been reflected in the national drowning statistics particularly in the 15–24 years age group. Royal Life Saving believes that the 25 per cent increase in drowning deaths of young adults is undeniably linked to a fall in the swimming and water safety skills of children over the past decade.

Students engaging in the Caulfield Primary School Swimming Program will develop skills, confidence, knowledge and understanding that will enable them to comprehend aquatic dangers and to participate safely in aquatic activities.

Policy

Caulfield Primary School will provide all students with access to a swimming program that is designed to assist students to:

- develop confidence in water by providing a wide variety of appropriate situations and activities;
- make participation in swimming an enjoyable and social experience;
- allow all children the opportunity to participate in a sequence of swimming, survival, water safety, rescue and emergency procedure experiences;
- develop swimming strokes, water skills and personal safety awareness;
- encourage participation in aquatic activities as a leisure pursuit.

All students are expected to attend the swimming program.

In addition to the swimming instruction program, a school swimming carnival for students in years 3-6 will be held each year in first term. Students who meet qualifying standards may be invited to participate in inter-school (district) swimming competition.

Implementation

- The swimming program is offered to children from Prep to Grade 6.
- Parents wishing their child/ren not to attend the swimming program should provide a written note either for the whole program or on an individual lesson basis.
- DET consent forms and appropriate medical forms must be signed and returned to the school by due dates. No child may participate without these forms having been completed. Parents are required to return all notices by the due date.

- Participation in the swimming program is self-funded and the cost to parents is taken into consideration when planning the program.
- Parents may negotiate a payment plan to cover the cost of the program by arrangement with the principal. Students whose fees have not been paid will not be permitted to participate.
- Parent help will be sought as required. All parent helpers must have a current Working with Children Check.
- Children not involved in the swimming program will remain at school and be supervised by remaining classroom teachers.
- All swimming levels attained will be updated at the end of each program and the skills achieved by students will be included in the semester physical education report.
- Children are expected to wear appropriate swimming attire and bring their own towel and goggles in a waterproof bag. Hair longer than shoulder length must be tied back or a swim cap worn.
- Exemptions for Muslim students during Ramadan and others with cultural and religious beliefs which hinder their ability to participate should be discussed with the principal.
- The swimming program will be conducted at a suitable local, heated venue and 'Austswim' qualified instructors will be employed during all swimming sessions. The school program should include a sequence involving:
 - Swimming
 - water safety
 - survival techniques
 - rescue and emergency procedures.

The school principal must ensure that all relevant requirements are met for:

- supervision levels
- staff and/or instructor qualifications
- other health and emergency and safety precautions.

The principal should also ensure that:

- students suffering from contagious infections are not permitted to enter swimming pools until they have recovered, e.g. ear and throat infections, gastrointestinal infections, colds, papillomas
- supervising staff know the medical histories of students in the program, particularly with respect to epilepsy, diabetes, asthma and heart conditions
- for students with chronic illnesses:
 - parent permission is obtained before the student is involved in a swimming program and any special requirements are noted by supervising staff
 - parents are advised to obtain medical advice if there is any doubt about the student's reaction to any aspect of the program.

Date of approval: 2016	Date of review: 2019
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