

On behalf of MCRActive we welcome you and your pupils to the Manchester School Swimming programme. Below is some information we feel you may find useful if you are going to be attending the sessions this academic year.

### **National Curriculum Attainment -**

Whilst on the school swimming programme your pupils will be working towards achieving National Curriculum attainment, which consists of:

- Swimming a minimum of 25 metre unaided
- Using a range of recognised strokes – please note on school swimming the expected standards are slightly lower than private lessons and are performed over a distance of 10 metres
- Safe Self Rescue - this is a really important element of school swimming and shows the focus of ensuring that if a child gets into difficulty they are able to get themselves to safety.

All pupils are taught the basic fundamentals of swimming through a scheme of work based on Swim England's learn 2 swim framework, which will form the foundations to enable pupils to develop skills and choose their own aquatic pathway.

### **Progress of pupils -**

During the first 2 weeks the pupils will be assessed on their ability and grouped accordingly, pupils may be given swimming aids to use and we ask that you support the instructor in this decision. Some pupils find it hard to differentiate between school swimming and evening lessons where they may not wear any aids, this can sometimes filter through to parents/guardians who may not be happy with the decision. The reason that a pupil who may seem like they can swim may be given swimming aids is that health and safety on the programme is of paramount importance. There are a large number of pupils across a wide range of abilities and limited space in the water, so the 'swimmers' maybe placed in the centre of the pool away from the wall to swim for the majority of the lesson. Until an instructor is confident with their ability they will use swimming aids, this is in no way detrimental to the child's ability or progress.

### **Role of school staff -**

As stated in the service level agreement the role of the school teacher is to play an '**active**' role on poolside. School staff may be asked to support the delivery of the session which may include, overseeing a group (depending on confidence), encouraging from the side, updating the register or supporting from the water (recent tests have proven that schools attainment increases when there is a member of school staff supporting from the water). Please note if a member of staff is in the water with the pupils they must wear shorts and t-shirts.

School staff do not replace the swimming instructor, the instructor is always in charge of the delivery. It is recommended that there should be a minimum of 2 members of school staff to 30 pupils accompanying the pupils to the pool. This is to ensure that if a member of staff has to leave the pool e.g. to take a pupil to the toilet or attend to an emergency then there is always a member of staff on poolside.

## **Swimphony system -**

All schools are responsible for ensuring that all pupil information is present and correct. By logging onto the system you will be able to receive up to date attainment figures for your pupils. It is extremely important that any **medical information** is listed on a pupil's profile. This is not only to ensure that the instructors are aware of any conditions so that necessary adjustments can be made, but also to use in the event of an emergency. Please note none of this data is held centrally by MCRactive on our admin portal – this is information solely available to your school and the instructor on poolside. Please do not presume we have the information and will notify the instructor, this is the schools responsibility.

Schools are also responsible for ensuring new pupils are added to the system and pupils are deleted who have left the school. The Swimphony support number is 0800 808 9004 if you have any problems.

**It is extremely important that pupil information is available on the system. If class lists are not on the system then the pupils will not be allowed in the water. We will allow 1 week grace in line with our pupil information policy, but after that week transport will be cancelled or individual pupils will not be allowed to participate in the lesson. Please contact us if you are having issues.**

## **Swimwear -**

All schools have been sent a parent and class teacher letter. These letters contain all information with regards to correct swimwear and what is accepted on the programme. Also stated on these letters included the policies regarding jewellery, goggles and swim hats. If you require another copy of this letter please speak to your swimming instructor or call the Active Schools team.

## **Health and Safety -**

All schools are advised to provide their own accident report forms to complete in the event of an accident or incident at the facility. A report will be undertaken by the facility staff but it is not their policy to share the information, so to ensure that you have all the relevant information that you require for your own report we strongly advise you to bring your own to avoid disappointment. All centre staff will be more than happy to support the completion of your form.

As all pools across Manchester will have specific and tailored normal operating procedures and emergency action plans, we strongly advise you to familiarise yourself with the process around fire drills. The centres may have different alarm systems and processes especially around the pool, so please speak to your instructor if you have any queries.

## **Behaviour policy -**

As part of the Manchester School Swimming Programme we deliver 248 sessions per week to 149 schools. It is made clear to all instructors that managing behaviour during the lesson is down to the school staff present. The instructor will always try to adopt the schools behaviour policy and will send any pupil that is being disruptive to the member of school staff to speak to them. However, it must be made clear that due to the high risks around

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water and the potential for serious injury any behaviour deemed dangerous will not be tolerated on the programme and a child may be asked to leave the session. The instructor will always communicate the reasons to the school staff so there is a clear understanding of the incident and the reasons why the child has been asked to leave.

We ask that schools do not stop a pupil attending swimming lessons as a means of discipline. There is only a very short amount of time over the year in comparison to what would be considered an appropriate amount of contact time to teach a non-swimmer to swim. It is important that pupils attend as many sessions as possible during the academic year to ensure that they have the absolute best chance of achieving the highest level of attainment that they can.

### **Pupils who are not participating -**

As stated in the SLA all pupils who are not participating in the session must remain back at school due to health and safety reasons. The sessions must be supervised by all members of school staff and this can't be done if there are pupils not taking part on poolside.

### **Programming -**

We encourage all schools to bring the same children for the full academic year. Recent attainment figures prove that any variation of this model has an impact on the attainment achieved. When schools change pupils each term there is a long time before that pupil attends again and without any swimming in-between this time can result in a pupils ability to decline. We are happy to explore different delivery models but we will always encourage the model that achieves the highest attainment.

There will be opportunities for top up sessions for all pupils that didn't achieve the national curriculum attainment in year 4 from October half term. This will be communicated to schools nearer the time.

### **Mobile Phones –**

We understand that it is a requirement for a member of school staff to have a mobile phone with them when off school site for emergency reasons, but can we please ask that these are not used on poolside.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information and we look forward to working with you and your pupils this academic year. If you have any queries on any of the above please give the Active Schools team a call to discuss further.

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