



Swimming and water safety attainment levels

Department for Education to add a condition as part of the Primary Premium monitoring that primary schools must publish curriculum swimming and water safety attainment levels.

ENSURING EFFECTIVE MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Goal:

To establish an effective monitoring and evaluation measure for curriculum swimming and water safety attainment levels to ensure all pupils are provided with a high level of tuition and are able to swim before they leave primary school.

The Challenge:

Despite it being part of the national curriculum, primary schools are not required to report on their swimming and water safety provision or attainment levels. The Group has heard evidence that this not only impacts on the level and quality of provision, but also on how much information is shared with parents and secondary schools about a pupils' ability²².

Since 2012 Swim England has conducted annual research into the levels of swimming attainment in primary school children. This has helped provide insight into the state of primary school swimming and allowed Swim England to develop programs to try and change it, such as the School Swimming Charter²³. This data provides an important look at the national picture, but is not detailed enough for results to be scrutinised at a local level. The Group was also concerned by the lack of measures related to SEND pupils and swimming attainment (see above). Without a consistent measure, the Group does not believe it will be possible to accurately measure progress and improvement²⁴, which is why Swim England is looking at the development of a robust monitoring tool (see below). Throughout the consultation, partners referenced the importance of Ofsted inspecting curriculum swimming and water safety lessons as being 'the silver bullet' for ensuring schools deliver swimming. However, the Group recognised that tasking Ofsted with

monitoring curriculum swimming is currently a challenging task so would welcome the opportunity to work closely with Ofsted in setting quality standards for curriculum swimming.

In addition, the Group is committed to investigating current PE and School Sport Accreditation programmes that support the provision of Quality Assured School programmes with a view to creating a similar award for curriculum swimming and water safety²⁵. Swim Group will also be working with Learn to Swim software management companies with the aim of recommending data share options for schools. Although these are not robust measures, they should be seen as ways of providing supportive evidence in the absence of a national, government-led monitoring system.

Swim Group recommendations:

- Department for Education to add a condition as part of the Primary Premium monitoring that primary schools must publish curriculum swimming and water safety attainment levels.
- The Swim Group to develop a Swimming Report template for schools as part of the Curriculum Swimming and Water Safety Resource Pack, which Ministers encourage primary schools to complete and forward to Secondary schools.
- Department for Culture, Media and Sport to work with the Swim Group and Sport England to develop a question for Active Lives: Children's Survey (KPI 5) that requests information regarding swimming proficiency.

Ryhill Junior, Infant and Nursery School
swimming and water safety attainment levels

Meeting national curriculum requirements for swimming and water safety.	Please complete all of the below*:
What percentage of your current Year 6 cohort swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres?	73%
What percentage of your current Year 6 cohort use a range of strokes effectively [for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke]?	73%
What percentage of your current Year 6 cohort perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations?	66%
Schools can choose to use the Primary PE and Sport Premium to provide additional provision for swimming but this must be for activity over and above the national curriculum requirements. Have you used it in this way?	No

- Data from Year 6 cohort (2018)