



Rationale:

- Swimming is an integral and essential part of the physical education program. Becoming a confident and competent swimmer is essential to student safety, as well as increasing opportunities for both leisure and sporting pursuits.

Aims:

- To develop confident and competent swimmers who display the skills, knowledge and confidence required to enjoy swimming and other aquatic activities in safety.

Implementation:

- The school’s annual swimming program will be organised and coordinated by staff who will be in attendance at all times, will only involve the use of municipal and commercial swimming pools, and will comply with Department of Education requirements at all times.
- A minimum of 2 staff members will be in attendance at all times, one being a qualified teacher employed by either the school council or Department of Education who has overall responsibility for the program. The other staff member is involved in instruction and must hold an AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety certificate. At least one staff member will have current CPR qualifications.

This table describes supervision requirements

Minimum Staff - At least two staff supervise students at swimming and water activities.

The minimum overall staff – student ratio should be:

Swimming pools and other shallow venues: Beginner swimmers - i.e. students with little or no experience including in shallow water.	1:10
Intermediate swimmers - i.e. students with basic skills, able to swim 25 metres with a recognisable stroke.	1:12
Advanced swimmers - i.e. students able to swim fifty strokes using two recognisable strokes and to demonstrate one survival stoke in deep water.	1:15
Surf beaches - Note: Groups should be no greater than 50 students.	1:5
Open deep water venues	1:10

Personnel –

- A teacher employed by the Department or the School Council must be in attendance and 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.

- School council will employ additional AUSTSWIM qualified instructors where available to assist with the program, and will only use volunteers who are AUSTSWIM qualified.
- The swimming program will follow the Victorian Water Safety Certificate (VWSC) and other progress reports if needed. Reports and certificates are coordinated by the contractor of the Swimming Program with the VWSC being an initiative of Royal Life Saving Society – Australia.
- An emergency drill will be explained and practiced at the start of the program, and throughout the program.
- Parents must provide a completed and signed swimming permission form for their child to participate in the program, and staff associated with the swimming program are to be made familiar with medical histories of students in respect to epilepsy, diabetes, asthma and heart conditions, and appropriate measures taken.
- Students with ear infections, throat infections, colds, papillomas and other contagious infections will not be permitted to enter the water until they have recovered. Parents will be informed of this via a variety of methods (ie; newsletter, Flexibuzz).
- Costs associated with swimming programs must be paid by parents prior to the commencement of the program. Parents experiencing financial difficulty should contact the Principal.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed annually and feedback will be sought from the School Community.

Endorsed by School Council
Tuesday 11th September 2019