

School Swimming Headteacher Update – Autumn Term 2019

For ALL Wirral Schools

Free Swimming for Pupil Premium

All pupils in Wirral schools who are allocated Pupil Premium are entitled to free swimming at any of the Wirral Council pools during school holidays. To take advantage of this parents should take proof of this along to any of the pools and set up a free membership for their child.

Swim passes in between lessons

If a school has a two week block of swimming at any of the Wirral Leisure pools, all pupils are entitled to free swimming at that pool during the middle weekend. We are aware that some pools are better at sharing the free passes than others and I have asked for all pools and instructors to share information consistently. Please encourage school staff to ask for the free passes at the end of the first week of swimming.

For schools swimming as part of the Edsential Swimming programme



We have now launched a free resource for schools to promote the importance of water safety. The resource can be used to support the delivery of National Curriculum Swimming and has been designed as short activities for the bus journey or back in class. Schools can download the resource from the members area of the Edsential School Swimming website. Each school has a password to access this which was sent out with their swimming timetables. [Edsential Swimming Members Area](#)

Certificates and the National Curriculum

As mentioned on the previous update, instructors are now assessing the pupils against the 3 aspects of the National Curriculum. The old levels system is no longer in use. It was expected that the increased focus on the National Curriculum aspects would result in pupils making quicker progress.



Each child who achieves the National Curriculum expectations will receive a Swimming bag in recognition of their achievement. The following additional certificates are available for schools to download [here](#)

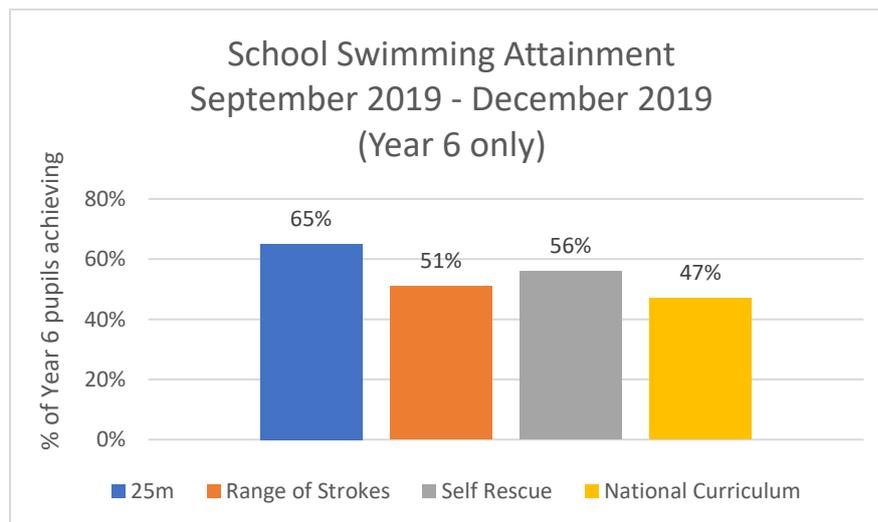
National Curriculum Award for pupils achieving all 3 aspects of the National Curriculum.

Dolphin Award for pupils not achieving National Curriculum standards but making exceptional progress or showing standout effort and determination in school swimming.

Stingray Award for pupils who have already achieved the National Curriculum standards but continue to excel in school swimming.

Data and results

September to December 2019 – 47% of Year 6 pupils who have been swimming have achieved all 3 aspects of the National Curriculum. This compares favourably to this time last year when 34% of Year 6 pupils had achieved the same 3 aspects. * As in the previous year, it is expected that this figure will continue to increase as many schools have ‘top up’ sessions planned for the Year 6 pupils during the rest of the academic year.



We are currently undertaking further analysis of attainment data including a focus on attainment for different clusters, pools and spend v attainment. This will be made available to schools in the Spring Term 2020 HT Update.

Top Up Swimming Options

Option 1

We have a limited number of swimming slots available in the second part of the spring term and summer term. Please contact our team if you are interested in addition swimming.

Option 2

In the Summer term we are encouraging schools to send any Year 6 pupils who are not yet competent swimmers to cluster top up sessions. The transport and pool hire costs will be subsidised and the remaining costs can be split between all schools taking part. Specific times, dates and further details will be advertised in February.

Quality Assurance

Each Friday afternoon one of our team will visit 2 or 3 pools to carry out appropriate checks on the quality of instruction, consistency of instruction across the 6 pools, accurate assessment and the

overall safety of the pool site. It is also an opportunity for school staff to discuss any concerns they may have around any aspect of school swimming.

Further Support

Please feel free to contact any member of our Swimming team if you would like to discuss how to develop your swimming provision. This may include additional sessions or more efficient use of current provision.

Carl Sutton
Lead for Physical Health and Wellbeing

07710607177

carl.sutton@edsential.co.uk

Claire Annakin
School Swimming Advisor

07710706191

claire.annakin@edsential.co.uk