**Swimming Policy**

**Scoil Mhuire Naofa**

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The school has regard to both the physical and mental development of each of its pupils. Believing that a healthy body promotes a healthy mind, the school arranges for a course of swimming instruction in the Mayfield Sports Complex swimming pool for each of its students during the school year.

* Each pupil will attend a 6 week session in a swimming pool annually in 3rd and 4th class including 2nd class for 2013 only.
* Costs incurred by hiring of pool, bus and payment of instructors necessitate a fee for this activity. Every child will partake in the Aquatics Module of the PE Curriculum without exception unless they have a medical cert stating the reason from their doctor.
* The Parents Association will organise the swimming programme for these classes.
* In developing partnership with the parents in the school, the class teacher and parent volunteers will supervise the swimming sessions.

Should a child be unable to attend the course, due to ill health or any other reason, he will travel with the class to the pool and remain under the supervision of the class teacher. A letter from the doctor will be required by the school.

In the best interest of the child, it is the duty of parents/guardians to inform the class teacher and/or Principal with regard to any health condition that may affect the child in the pool. This information will be held in confidence and provided on a need to know basis to the swimming instructors.

Up to five parents will be requested to accompany teachers and pupils to the pool to help with supervision and with dressing and undressing smaller children.

All children attending the course should wear their tracksuit. (Swimming togs may be worn under tracksuits coming to school). Each child must have a suitable bag to carry his swimming gear (sports bag or similar with secure zip or other fastening).

All items brought to the pool must be clearly labelled with the child’s name. This includes the bag, tracksuit, socks, underwear and shoes.

Each child must have their own togs (without pockets), underwear, towel, goggles (optional), hair brush, swim cap and spare plastic bag for wet clothes, all of which must also be marked.

Deodorants etc. must not be brought to the pool as the dressing rooms are confined spaces. The Health and Safety Guidelines outlined by the pool authorities will be strictly adhered to.

The children are not permitted to use the vending machines at the swimming pool.

While in the pool, pupils must endeavour to obey the instructors orders at all times and comply with the School Code of Conduct and in particular the rules to allow safe swimming for all.

Teachers of all classes should remain on the viewing deck during the lesson in order to supervise the overall group and pupils who may need to use the toilets during the lesson.

The permission from parents to the school to let children go swimming is covered in an Annual Consent Form.

Scoil Mhuire Naofa’s Child Protection Policy and in particular reference to changing for games/PE and swimming:-

“Pupils will be expected to dress and undress themselves for Games/PE/Swimming in the communal areas (or a private cubicle if they are competent independently) but may receive assistance if needed. Where such assistance is needed this will be done in the communal area. Under no circumstances will members of staff/volunteers be expected to or allowed to dress/undress a child in a cubicle/private area. In such situations where privacy is required, the parents/guardians of the child will be asked to assist the child and may use a private cubicle

The BOM of Scoil Mhuire Naofa has requested that all volunteers for school activities be Garda Vetted using the form approved by the CPSMA and have completed a Statutory Declaration. At all times there must be adequate supervision of pupils. While every effort will be made to adhere to best practice as agreed and outlined above, in the event of an emergency where this is not possible or practicable, a full record of the incident should be made and reported to the Principal and parents.”

Signed on behalf of the Board of Management

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_