



Swimming Policy 2025

Approved by: SLT

Date:

Last reviewed: Nov 2025

Next review due: Sep 2026



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Sandal Magna Physical Education Policy

At Sandal Magna Community Academy, we recognise swimming as a vital life skill and an essential component of the National Curriculum. We are committed to ensuring every child has the opportunity to develop water confidence, competence, and personal safety awareness through high-quality swimming instruction.

Swimming lessons take place at Sun Lane Swimming Baths in Wakefield, where qualified swimming teachers deliver all aquatic instruction. This policy outlines our school's approach, expectations, and organisation of swimming within the PE curriculum, reflecting our values and ensuring consistency across the academy.

Our Aims

We aim to:

This Swimming Policy aims to:

- Ensure all pupils receive swimming lessons that meet the **DfE's National Curriculum requirements** for primary schools.
- Provide a clear framework for planning, teaching, assessment, and health & safety.
- Promote water safety, confidence, and core swimming skills for all children.
- Support safe practice and risk awareness in and around water.
- Ensure inclusive provision and equal opportunities for all learners.

Guiding principles:

- **Safety-first approach** – All activity is underpinned by strong risk awareness and safe behaviours.
- **Inclusion for all** – Lessons are accessible and adapted for all pupils, including those with SEND or medical needs.
- **High-quality, progressive lessons** – Skills are built sequentially to support competence and confidence.
- **Partnership working** – Staff work in collaboration with Sun Lane swimming professionals.

National Curriculum Requirements (DfE)

By the end of Year 6, all pupils must be able to:

1. **Swim competently, confidently, and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres.**
2. **Use a range of strokes effectively**, such as front crawl, backstroke, and breaststroke.
3. **Perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations.**

Sandal Magna Community Academy fully supports these statutory requirements and works to ensure all pupils meet them wherever possible.

Planning and Organisation

- Swimming lessons are currently provided for **Year 5 pupils**, taking place weekly.
- Additional lessons may be provided for pupils in **Upper Key Stage 2** who have not yet met National Curriculum expectations.
- Lessons are delivered by qualified swimming instructors at **Sun Lane Swimming Baths**.
- School staff supervise pupils during transport, arrival, changing, and departure.
- Travel time to Sun Lane is included within PE curriculum allocation.
- Pupils are grouped by ability to ensure appropriate challenge and safe progression.

Curriculum Delivery

Swimming instruction at Sun Lane includes:

- **Water confidence and entry skills**
- **Stroke development** (front crawl, backstroke, breaststroke)
- **Floatation, gliding, and kicking techniques**
- **Breathing control**
- **Deep water confidence**
- **Water safety education**, including recognising hazards, safe behaviours, and emergency procedures

Lessons follow a structured progression and build upon prior skills to develop:

- Competency over increasing distances
- Technique and stamina
- Understanding of personal safety in water-based environments

School staff:

- Support behaviour management and organisation.
- Liaise with swimming instructors regarding pupil needs and progress.
- Ensure safeguarding and medical needs are appropriately managed.

Inclusion

Sandal Magna Community Academy ensures that:

- All children access swimming lessons regardless of need, background, or ability.
- Adaptations are made according to individual requirements, including:
 - Additional adult support
 - Adapted tasks
 - Modified expectations where appropriate
- Parents are consulted regarding any medical or SEND considerations.
- Alternative learning or support is provided where pupils cannot safely enter the water.
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Assessment and Recording

Assessment is carried out by swimming instructors in partnership with school staff. Assessment includes:

- Ongoing observation of technique, confidence, and stamina.
- Monitoring progress through ability groups.
- Formal evaluation of pupils' achievement against DfE expectations.
- Recording:
 - Distance achieved
 - Effective use of strokes
 - Water safety and self-rescue skills
- Tracking of pupils who require additional provision (including by Year 6).
- Reporting to parents in end-of-year reports.

Health and Safety

All lessons follow the **Normal Operating Procedures (NOP)** and **Emergency Action Plan (EAP)** of Sun Lane Swimming Baths.

Key safety measures:

- Qualified lifeguards are present at all times.
- Staff ensure quiet, orderly conduct in changing areas.
- Clear behaviour expectations are established and reinforced.
- Pupils must:
 - Tie back long hair
 - Remove jewellery
 - Wear appropriate swimwear
 - Bring inhalers or required medication
- Medical needs are communicated clearly to Sun Lane staff before lessons begin.
- Emergency procedures are known by all accompanying staff.
- Regular checks ensure up-to-date risk assessments and safe travel arrangements.

Resources

- Swimming equipment is provided by Sun Lane Swimming Baths.
- School supplies:

- Registers and attendance records
- Assessment documentation
- Spare swim kit where necessary
- Educational water safety resources may be used in school to complement practical lessons.

School Sports Premium

Sports Premium funding supports:

- Additional or top-up swimming lessons for pupils not meeting national expectations.
- Training for staff to enhance their understanding of water safety and swimming supervision.
- Extended opportunities for physical development and health education.

Spending and impact are reviewed termly and monitored by Governors.

Monitoring and Review

The PE subject leader will:

- Oversee continuity and progression in swimming provision.
- Review assessment data and identify pupils needing additional support.
- Liaise with the swimming baths instructors to monitor quality and progress.
- Support colleagues, share expertise, and provide guidance.
- Update this policy annually or in response to changes in national guidance.