

Changing Rooms for School Swimming Summary Guidance Notes

School Staff have a responsibility for their pupils at all times during Trips and Visits, including during changing time during their School Swimming Session. The Risk Assessment should include the procedures the school are adopting and should follow guidance from organisations such as AfPE (Health and Safety Update 2018) and NSPCC (Factsheet for Schools: Getting Changed for PE, March 2018), refer to the BSSP website – www.bssp.org.uk (Newsletters and Articles).

The Senior Management Team should be aware of these procedures and they should be included within the School Safeguarding Policy. When organising changing provision for pupils with additional needs, schools should refer to the school's Intimate Care Policy (again, guidance is included within the above two articles)

There is no current legislation around safe PE Changing practices in primary schools - it is up to schools to write their own guidelines; these should include staff being a 'presence' at all times due to the Duty of Care they have over their pupils. AfPE discuss the suitability of remote supervision, stating that this is only satisfactory when the member of staff remains on hand in the immediate vicinity outside the changing area to respond to any alert. And that decisions to supervise less directly should not be taken lightly.

Additional arrangements may need to be made for pupils with disabilities; from different religions, beliefs and cultural backgrounds or gender identity. Schools need to treat all pupils fairly and with respect for their privacy and dignity.

Where possible, single-gender changing rooms or areas should be used (screens can be used to provide separate areas). Boys and girls should normally be changing in separate areas by the time they are 7/8 years old. Schools are advised that members of staff should only supervise or assist pupils of the same gender. Therefore, a careful Risk Assessment needs to be done in the event that this is not possible (refer to the above guidance documents). Schools are also advised to ask for the Leisure Provider H & S Policy for School usage.

Both AfPE and NSPCC make it very clear that:

- ***It is not appropriate for school swimmers to share changing facilities with members of the public unless this has been carefully risk assessed (Swim England also advise against this practice).*** *If school sessions precede or are followed by public sessions, enough time should be booked either side of the swimming session to allow pupils to get showered and changed before the public are allowed in.*

AfPE state:

- ***At swimming pools, separate changing areas should be made available. Where this is not possible and 'village style' changing areas are used, attendance at the pool at different times to the public may be requested. Failing this, schools should request that students are provided with a section of the changing area specifically for their use, away from that being used by the public.***