

'Comment on Meeting the Needs of Muslim Pupils in State Schools: Information and Guidance for Schools,' British Muslim Council, 2007, Association for Physical Education, Chapter 3, pages 30, 31 and 38:

'Any swallowing of water is always unintentional in swimming, whether during Ramadan or not, due to the adverse effects this has on the activity and the distasteful chemical balance of the water. This issue should not impact on a Muslim pupil participating in the development of a life skill during the period of Ramadan.'

Many schools try to implement single-sexed lessons where possible when the proportion of Muslim pupils is high as well as seeking to abide by the principles of decency, dignity, modesty and privacy during changing, so far as the facilities allow.

Whilst swimming is a statutory experience in the national curriculum, and in order to ensure the development of a genuine life skill, the option for pupils to be excused from the activity cannot be implemented other than to place the school and possibly the individual teacher in contravention of laws of the land.

Whilst it is a statutory experience then the religious requirements need to be flexible in order to meet the statutory requirement set out by the Government.'