



BUCKS SCHOOL SWIMMING PARTNERSHIP

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023



PE and Swimming = WetPE!

We all know that PE and sport have an important, positive impact on a child's health and wellbeing. The objective of the available Primary PE and Sport Premium funding is to achieve self-sustaining improvement in the quality of PE and sport in primary schools.

Within this newsletter I have broken down how you could use the PE and Sport Premium to support your school's swimming and water safety programme.

As the winter approaches **NOW** is the time to increase awareness of water safety. Time to share and ensure the **whole family knows basic water safety** and what to do if they find themselves in the water unexpectedly. You can access FREE [RLSS UK resources](#) to help.

With the right education, accidental drownings are avoidable.

Since my appointment, 3 years ago (!) we launched the BSSP Kitemark; "... a reward to outwardly demonstrate a school's 100% commitment to following best practice within their swimming policies, staffing qualifications and risk assessments ..."

Over 90 schools achieved that Kitemark. We have trained over 250 individual school staff. With the relaunch of the Bucks Safe Practice Policy and Checklist (pg3) - we anticipate more schools will achieve the 2023-2024 Kitemark.

I hope you find this term's newsletter useful, please do share it with anyone who may benefit from its contents.

We do welcome your feedback/comments or suggestions regarding this Newsletter and as always, please do reach out to us for further help/support "all things swimming"



Zoe Rogers
(BSSP) School Swimming Adviser
Bucks School Swimming Partnership



CONTENTS

Page 2 Introduction

Page 3 Bucks **Safe Practice Policy + Checklist**

Page 4 Funding; Primary PE and Sport Premium

Page 6 RLSS UK; Winter Water Safety

Page 7 Teacher Training - Courses; How to Book

Page 8 Courses; How to Book

Partnership Agreement - REVISED Edition (October 2023)



The **Bucks Safe Practice in School Swimming Policy & Guidance** ensures that all schools and staff in Buckinghamshire are supported in School Swimming through the guidance, whether at a school pool, hydrotherapy pool, public pool or during school visits.

Included are policies and procedures of BSSP and Buckinghamshire Council based on current national guidance.

For future reference we have taken the decision to produce this as an online resource which will be available through our website;

<https://www.bssp.org.uk/>

School Swimming Policy Checklist



To comply with the Bucks Safe Practice in School Swimming Policy and Guidance (October 2023) you are required to complete and return the attached **School Swimming Policy Checklist** to fulfil statutory Health and Safety responsibilities to identify where there are Health and Safety aspects which need addressing. It also provides information about fulfilment of the National Curriculum Swimming Programme.

Historically, schools have found the survey a useful checklist to enable them to plan 'next steps' if actions are required and to involve and inform all key parties.

We will work closely with schools to achieve 100% compliance with the Bucks School Swimming Safe Practice Policy & Guidance - and ultimately attain the **2023-24 Kitemark** which can be displayed on your website and other digital platforms.

If you need any assistance in completing this form, please contact Sharon Evans, BSSP, via; swimming@ahs.bucks.sch.uk

Questionnaire Link - <https://forms.gle/ZTrEUEou6EfIS4eH7>

Deadline: 8th December 2023

Aylesbury High School, Walton Road, Aylesbury, Bucks.
T:: 01296 388222 ext. 421

✉ swimming@ahs.bucks.sch.uk

W: [bssp.org.uk](https://www.bssp.org.uk)

 [@bssppartnership](https://twitter.com/bssppartnership)

Help!

The **Primary PE and Sport Premium** is a great way to help ensure all your pupils leave primary school being able to swim and know how to be safe in and around the water. The Department for Education's [guidance](#) sets out how the premium can be used for activities to support swimming and water safety.



Can the premium be used to train teachers and other members of the school to help deliver swimming and water safety lessons?

Yes. Swimming lessons can be radically improved by providing additional swimming teachers. This reduces ratios and in turn improves quality by allowing for more individual communication and feedback during lessons. Reducing teaching ratios and improving quality will see significant

improvements in pupil attainment levels.

Swim England's National Curriculum Training Programme for primary school staff is a specialised training package to support school staff by equipping you with the skills and knowledge to deliver high quality school swimming lessons to make sure your school not only meets but exceeds the national curriculum requirements.

We deliver Swim England CPD endorsed by CIMSPA - the professional development body for the UK's sport and physical activity sector.

You can learn more about the courses we offer and how to book a place [here](#).



How can the premium be used to support pupils not meeting national curriculum expectations?

Some pupils may not be able to meet national curriculum expectations after swimming and water safety lessons in core PE. The premium can be used for **Top-up Swimming**. This is an intervention designed to provide additional help to those pupils who would benefit from extra support, enabling every child to achieve the key stage 2 standard in swimming and water safety at primary school.

The inability to float on either the front or the back, or travel 10 metres at the halfway point of a school swimming programme, is a useful indication that a pupil needs additional support to meet the minimum expectations.

It is important to have a general idea of the likely number of pupils as early as possible in the year, or to identify the pupils who are struggling to be proficient swimmers in Year 5.

Early identification of pupils who need extra support to develop their skills further is very useful and may well have cost advantages to schools. Booking additional time in advance for a block period may mean pool operators are more willing to offer their facilities at a lower price.

Many schools hold their Top-up lessons during or very close to the last two weeks of the summer term. A good time to target Year 6 pupils is after the national curriculum assessments (SATs). If your school is planning to run Top-up lessons during the second part of the summer term, a decision on pupils should be made by the start of May. Early booking with a swimming lesson provider is advised for premium lesson allocations.

Some schools identify pupils who won't meet the minimum outcomes on a rolling process, offering Top-up lessons after each term.

N.B. The premium may not be used to deliver core swimming and water safety lessons.



What are schools required to report on for swimming and water safety?

As part of the accountability requirements for the PE and Sport Premium, schools are required to publish the swimming and water safety attainment levels of your current Year 6 cohort. This should be published on your school website and should state what percentage of pupils meet the national curriculum swimming and water safety requirements. The reporting deadline is the end of the summer term.

A reporting template is available from the Association for Physical Education

https://www.afpe.org.uk/page/Website_Reporting_Template

This template helps schools to provide the information required on the use of their premium and swimming and water safety attainment of pupils.

For more information about the PE and Sport Premium, including how it is calculated and when it is granted, visit the Department for Education [website](#).







A Guide for Parents

This guide has been developed to help parents and carers understand why it is important their child learns about swimming and water safety at primary school - please do share this with them.

Winter Water Safety

Help spread RLSS UK's winter water safety message and get your children talking about winter water safety

Download RLSS's [FREE winter water safety colouring in sheet, activity booklet and leaflet](#)

			
Stop and Think	Stay Together	Call 999	Float
<p>Keep back from slippery banks and wear footwear with a good grip.</p> <p>Stick to well-lit areas - the reduction in daylight in the winter adds to risks around water. Plan your walks in daylight or along well-lit paths.</p> <p>Ice can be extremely vulnerable even during periods of prolonged cold. Never go onto the ice.</p>	<p>Keep children within reach and teach children not to go onto ice.</p> <p>Keep dogs on a lead near ice and slippery banks.</p> <p>If out enjoying a winter walk, walk with friends.</p>	<p>Call 999</p> <p>Do not enter cold water or ice to rescue.</p>	<p>Fall in or become tired - stay calm, float on your back and call for help.</p> <p>Throw something that floats to somebody that has fallen in.</p> <p>If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible.</p> <p>Preserve heat by pressing your arms by your side and keep your legs together.</p> <p>Keep your head clear of the water.</p>

Do you have staff in your school who need to undertake the Swim England Support Teacher of School Swimming Course?

In addition to trained specialised swimming teachers, there should be **a minimum of 2 staff accompanying school swimming who must be qualified** in either the Stage 1; Support Teacher or Stage 2; Teacher of School Swimming. Swim England recommends that staff upskill or refresh within a 5 year period due to significant changes in the National Curriculum.

If you are unsure and would like to cross-check staff members qualifications against our database, please contact Sharon Evans - swimming@ahs.bucks.sch.uk

We ask that delegates can swim 25m. This is not because we are going to ask you to demonstrate your swimming ability - more that when putting together these courses we need to put everyone's safety first.



We want you to be able to fully engage in the practical (pool) element of the course and to highlight an often overheard comment; ***I didn't realise it was so hard to blow an egg-flip over*** - exactly, the pool element is there for delegates to experience what students are being asked to do - and therefore the relevant encouragement/feedback can be given.

Do share any concerns over the practical element of these courses by speaking to Sharon 01296 388222 x 421 or if you prefer email; swimming@ahs.bucks.sch.uk

Course Dates 2023-2024

Please be aware that courses fill up quickly so do book well in advance in preparation for the safe delivery of school swimming lessons. Further information on all the courses/training we offer and how to book, can be found here; [course dates 2023-2024](#)

Further information can be found on the BSSP website - <https://www.bssp.org.uk/swimming-courses/>
any further queries please email; swimming@ahs.bucks.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued support and understanding of the importance of Safe Practice in School Swimming & Water Safety Lessons.