



BUCKS SCHOOL SWIMMING PARTNERSHIP

NEWSLETTER, OCTOBER 2026

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Welcome back to another busy academic year! We hope you, your staff, and your pupils had a refreshing summer break and are settling smoothly into the autumn term.

As school swimming timetables get underway across the area, we are delighted to share key updates, celebrate your compliance milestones, and highlight local water safety initiatives for the year ahead.

A huge thank you to every school that took the time to complete and submit the School Swimming Policy Checklist. Ensuring robust safety policies, clear roles, and effective operational procedures are in place before pupils step onto the poolside is essential for maintaining safe aquatic environments.

We are thrilled to announce that 67 schools have achieved Green Status following their checklist submissions! This reflects an outstanding commitment to safeguarding, water safety standards, and high-quality swimming provision. For schools still finalizing their documentation or working through recommendations, our team remains on hand to support you in reaching green status this term.

We are actively getting out on the ground across the region for poolside visits. These visits provide us with a valuable opportunity to observe school swimming lessons in real time, see the great work happening on the poolside, and engage directly with lead teachers and instructors. We look forward to meeting you!



BSSP RESOURCES

We are pleased to share that our [schemes of work](#) and school resources are now hosted on our dedicated Dropbox platform. While these materials remain completely free to access for all schools within Buckinghamshire, the platform is password-protected to ensure secure access; you can find the current password included in the email accompanying this newsletter. If your school ever needs a reminder of the password, please feel free to reach out to us at swimming@ahs.bucks.sch.uk.

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DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION (DfE) PSHE WATER SAFETY GUIDANCE

Water safety education remains a critical priority nationwide. Starting September 2026, water safety education is a mandatory component of the statutory Relationships, Sex, and Health Education (RSHE) curriculum for all primary and secondary schools in England. Following updated DfE guidance that integrates the Water Safety Code and essential self-rescue techniques into PSHE-related lessons, we encourage all schools to review their classroom-based delivery alongside practical pool instruction.

Key alignment points for your curriculum include:

- The Water Safety Code: Explicitly teaching pupils to stop and think, stay together, know what to do in an emergency, and remember the Float to Live advice.
- In-Classroom Safety Modules: Combining land-based water safety lessons in PSHE with practical swimming sessions to reinforce cold water shock awareness and hazard recognition before trips or open-water exposure.
- Cross-Curricular Mapping: Ensuring Key Stage 1, 2, 3 and 4 pupils receive age-appropriate, non-scaremongering guidance integrated into personal safety units.

To help reduce your workload, we have pooled resources from leading stakeholders into pre-designed materials spanning pre-school to secondary school—providing everything you need in one place:

- Ready-made lesson plans and assembly guides
- Interactive games and digital resources
- Practical ideas for delivering these concepts in the classroom

To gain access to these resources via our Dropbox platform, please fill out the linked [order form](#). An invoice for £25 will be sent upon receipt, and all digital files will be dispatched directly to you once payment is received—ready for seamless integration into your curriculum.

SITE VISITS

We regularly conduct site visits across the county to observe school swimming lessons and report our findings directly back to individual schools. Based on feedback from previous visits, staff find the following resources particularly useful—please signpost your relevant team members to them:

- [Bucks School Swimming Policy & Guidance 2025](#): See Page 17 of the PDF for a concise operational checklist.
- [RLSS Drowning Prevention Week](#): Excellent drowning prevention resources and activity guides focused around DPW.
- [Swim England School Swimming Charter](#): Access a range of free downloadable resources and lesson support.





LAUNCHING OUR FIRST WATER SAFETY SUMMIT FOR SCHOOLS!

We are thrilled to announce an exciting new initiative for this academic year: our Water Safety Summit for Schools.

This interactive, student-led event is designed to empower young learners to become Water Safety Officers within their own school communities. We are inviting schools to select a small group of pupils from year 4 or 5 to attend a dynamic morning of hands-on workshops. To enrich the experience and deliver powerful real-world insights, we will also be inviting key emergency service partners—including local police and fire services—to lead interactive sessions and support the children in spreading these vital messages.

During the summit, your student officers will engage with key water safety principles, learn essential self-rescue concepts, and develop peer leadership skills. Equipped with key resources, activity guides, and fresh ideas, they will return to your school ready to host assemblies, lead playground initiatives, and champion water safety across your entire school community.

Express Your Interest

Full details regarding dates, venue, and workshop schedules will be announced soon. Places for this event will be strictly limited.

If you would like to receive direct updates and gain first refusal on spaces for your school, please complete our brief Water Safety Summit Expression of Interest Form [linked here](#). Submitted schools will be contacted directly before general bookings open.





THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM TRAINING PROGRAMME

The Swim England National Curriculum Training Programme is made up of two training programmes. They use both theory and practical sessions to teach you the most effective ways of delivering school swimming for success.

1. **Support Teacher of School Swimming (STOSS)** - once completed the holder will be able to actively assist and support a more qualified teacher. Candidates can then progress to the second training programme.
2. **Teacher of School Swimming (TOSS)** – once completed the holder will be qualified to plan and evaluate session plans in line with the national curriculum, and teach independently in a school swimming programme. If you are delivering in your own school pool, as per the Bucks Safe Practice Policy, it is recommended that staff hold this qualification.

If you would like to cross-check your staff's qualifications against our database to ensure they are up to date, please contact Anna Nicol at swimming@ahs.bucks.sch.uk. As a reminder, Swim England recommends that staff refresh their qualifications every five years.

If your staff require training, we strongly advise booking well in advance to secure your places, as our courses fill up quickly. Please see our upcoming available dates below:

Stage 1 ; Support Teacher of School Swimming Course

Date	Time	Venue	Cost	Booking Status
07.01.27	09:30-16:30	Aylesbury High School (AGS pool)	£185	Limited availability
25.02.27	09:30-16:30	Aylesbury High School (AGS pool)	£185	Open
11.03.27	09:30-16:30	Aylesbury High School (AGS pool)	£185	Open
20.05.27	09:30-16:30	Aylesbury High School (AGS pool)	£185	Open
11.03.27	09:30-16:30	Aylesbury High School (AGS pool)	£185	Open
20.05.27	09:30-16:30	Aylesbury High School (AGS pool)	£185	Open
24.06.27	09:30-16:30	Aylesbury High School (AGS pool)	£185	Open
08.07.27	09:30-16:30	Aylesbury High School (AGS pool)	£185	Open



Stage 1; Support Teacher of School Swimming Course for Schools with Own Pools

Date	Time	Venue	Cost	Booking Status
22.04.27	09:30-16:30	Aylesbury High School (AGS pool)	£185	Open

Stage 2 ; Teacher of School Swimming Course

Date	Time	Venue	Cost	Booking Status
04.02.27	09:30-16:30	Aylesbury High School (AGS pool)	£195	Click Here
05.06.27	09:30-16:30	Aylesbury High School (AGS pool)	£195	Click Here

Stage 1& 2 Combined Secondary Teacher of School Swimming Courses

Date	Time	Venue	Cost	Booking Status
21.01.27	09:30-16:30	Aylesbury High School (AGS pool)	£195	Open

Online Refresher Training (MUST be completed within 5 Years of original qualification). Eligibility will be checked prior to confirmation

Date	Time	Venue	Cost	Booking Status
14.01.27	16:00-18:00	Online	£45	Open
13.05.27	16:00-18:00	Online	£45	Open

OWN SCHOOL POOL?

Staff are required to hold the RLSS National Rescue Award for Swimming Teachers and Coaches (NRASTC) or equivalent. N.B. This qualification is valid for 2 years and can be renewed prior to expiry by completing a NRASTC Light course.

Our trainer, [Kelly Jagger](#) is an accredited trainer for Buckinghamshire. For further information, or to cross-check staff members qualification status, please contact Anna Nicol - swimming@ahs.bucks.sch.uk

