

# Swimming and Water Safety

## Introduction

Water recreation is a popular activity in Aotearoa New Zealand. As a coastal community water is an important aspect of education for our students. All children should be aware of the danger water can pose and be provided with the opportunity to learn to swim and develop their water confidence.

Paraparaumu Beach School is committed to providing a safe environment, as far as is practicable. The swimming pool compound must meet all legislative requirements, and pool rules and common sense must be observed to minimise the risk of accident or injury at the pool.

The school Board complies with the Ministry of Education's [Health and Safety guidelines](#) for running a school pool. The board is responsible for ensuring that pool rules and an emergency contact number are clearly displayed in the pool area.

Outside of school hours, the BOT is not responsible for any harm to pool users provided that when the pool and surroundings are made available to the public, the board complies with the provisions of this policy.

## Guidelines for pool use during school hours

At Paraparaumu Beach School:

- Children must never be in the pool compound without an adult present, and may not swim without an adult's permission.
- Children in the water, and around the pool, must be actively supervised.
- Children are encouraged to use the toilet before swimming.
- No plasters are to be worn in the pool.
- Children must:
  - walk, not run, around the pool, and may **not** dive or jump in from the sides of the pool
  - never enter the pump or chemicals shed.
- To avoid spreading illness, anyone who has had diarrhoea must not use the pool until two weeks after their symptoms have resolved (NZS 5826:2010).
- In the event of faecal discharge or vomit incident in the pool, the pool will be closed until the water quality is tested and restored. Additionally measures will be taken for contacting parents if necessary.
- The swimming pool gate key can only be collected by an adult from the school office.
- The gate must be locked at the end of any swimming session, and must not be tied or left open at any time for any reason. Pool users should report any problems with pool facilities immediately.
- Pool equipment is not left lying around the pool where it could be a hazard.
- Parents are not to enter the changing rooms when children are changing. If a child needs support in the changing room the classroom teacher/teacher aide will provide the assistance.
- Whenever our pool is in use, all safety precautions will be adhered to including:
  - adult supervision

- o fencing and gate provision
- o appropriate chemical loading / storage
- o safe key management
- o pool cover fully removed
- o pool loading- Maximum pool loading is two classes.

*In the event of a school emergency, everyone exits the pool and follows our school emergency plan.*

*In the event of a pool emergency everyone exits the pool and follows staff instructions. Contact is made with the school office for further assistance. Ring 111 immediately if necessary.*

### **Guidelines for teaching and learning**

Swimming is part of the curriculum and it is expected that all the students will have had opportunities to learn basic aquatic skills by the end of Year 6. If a student is unable to participate in swimming lessons, parents must make contact with the classroom teacher to explain why and advise when their child can swim again.

- Years 1-6 students participate in a teacher directed swimming programme during term 1. Refer to [Kiwi Swim Safe framework](#).
- Year 7 and 8 students are formatively assessed on their ability to swim. Students who lack the ability to swim or stay sufficiently buoyant are selected to take part in teacher directed swimming lessons at an appropriate off-site facility.
- Due to the nature of a school swimming programme, school resources, weather conditions and ratios, teachers are unable to provide comprehensive instruction for individuals. For students who lack confidence or who are experiencing difficulty learning to swim, we recommend additional lessons outside of school.
- Teachers are encouraged to participate in swimming professional development when available.
- Teachers must remain poolside at all times to maintain active supervision of all swimmers.
- It is recommended that non swimmers are sent to a buddy class for the duration of the swimming slot. Alternatively, non swimmers can sit in the shade on the poolside with an engaging activity.
- We follow our school's sun safety procedure when using the school pool.
- Syndicates will be encouraged to participate in water safety education programmes e.g. [Beach Education Programmes](#).
- If any class trips involve travel by boat (including kayaking), the necessary safety precautions will be taken and instructions followed.
- If any class trips are located near water, necessary safety precautions will be taken and EOTC ratios will be adhered to.

### **Conclusion**

Water is a big part of our community and we want our tamariki to enjoy it in a safe manner.

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