

## School Swimming and Water Safety Update

It's the goal of Swim England, the national governing body for swimming in England, to make sure every child leaves primary school able to swim and with a good knowledge of water safety.

As a school, it's important that you are aware that attainment data for your current Year 6 pupils should be provided by the 31 July 2019. Even though your children may swim in another year group, please report on their attainment on leaving primary school.

### Why?

All schools must provide swimming lessons in Key Stage 1 or 2. Swimming is the only statutory sport within the Physical Education programme of study. In particular, pupils should be taught to:

- Perform safe self-rescue in different water based situations.
- Swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres.
- Use a range of strokes effectively, for example: front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke.

Schools are required to publish information on the percentage of their pupils in Year 6 who met the above three swimming and water safety national curriculum requirements – below:

1. What percentage of your current Year 6 can swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres?
2. What percentage of your current Year 6 can use a range of strokes effectively (for example front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke)?
3. What percentage of your current Year 6 can perform safe self-rescue in different water based situations?

You can find out exactly how to do this at [swimming.org/schools/about-school-swimming](https://swimming.org/schools/about-school-swimming)

There you'll find templates and guidance on how to report from the Association for PE.

If your current Year 6 had their most recent swimming lessons in summer term, this data should be provided. However, if swimming is provided in Year 5 (and not Year 6), data shouldn't be provided on the current Year 5 in 2018/2019 reporting. You should use the data from the previous year for your current Year 6.

### Why is this so important?

Attainment data will help to identify where in the country we have work to do – and enable Swim England, the Department for Education and the Swim Group to direct support and expertise where it will be of most benefit.

School swimming is really important because insight tells us that children who do not learn to swim at school may never have the opportunity to learn. This can be for a multitude of reasons, low income, perceived cultural barriers, low income households etc.

Developing a lifelong love of the water through school swimming is potentially the one chance we have to affect the future health of some pupils.

Water safety is the most important part of learning to swim – this should be integral to your whole school. At the end of Key Stage 2, all pupils are expected to be able to swim confidently and know how to be safe in and around water.

As well as learning to swim the basic strokes, pupils will learn how to be safe around beaches, lakes, canals etc. They'll know how the skills they learn in their swimming lessons can be used in an emergency.

The Swim England updated and refreshed School Swimming and Water Safety Charter is designed to provide extra support and practical resources to support schools to achieve the national curriculum requirements. You can register your interest for this package by emailing [schoolswimming@swimming.org](mailto:schoolswimming@swimming.org).

## Using the PE and Sport Premium to raise attainment in primary school swimming

The premium can be used to fund the professional development and training options that are available to schools to train staff to support high quality swimming and water safety lessons for their pupils. You can find more information about the 'National Curriculum Training Programme' offered by Swim England specifically for school staff at [swimming.org/schools/school-swimming-training](https://swimming.org/schools/school-swimming-training)

The premium may also be used to provide additional top-up swimming lessons to pupils who have not been able to meet the national curriculum requirements for swimming and water safety after the delivery of core swimming and water safety lessons.

### How you can help

- Attend regular (free) webinar updates from experts at Swim England.
- Develop cross-curricular swimming lessons - work with your lesson providers to cover other curriculum subjects i.e. Maths, English, and Science etc.
- Get parents on board and updated on progress and why school swimming is so important for the safety and wellbeing of their child.
- Sign your school up for the new School Swimming and Water Safety Charter. You'll receive a package of syllabus guidance cards, free downloadable certificates, lesson plan templates, progress passports stickers and 'star achiever' pin badges – and so much more. The future charter will include more digital resources, along with regularly updated lesson guidance, plans and templates.

Future success will be achieved by lesson providers and schools working together to deliver the best lessons possible – adhering to all the outcomes of the School Swimming and Water Safety framework.

### Support for schools

To support this renewed emphasis, Swim England and the Swim Group are developing a new resource pack for all those involved in the delivery of curriculum swimming and water safety.

The Swim Group was set up in 2015 by Sport England. It consists of representatives from across the swimming sector. Chaired by Swim England CEO Jane Nickerson, the Swim Group meets quarterly to discuss the big issues impacting on swimming, water safety and participation.

The new resource pack has been split into four to provide dedicated information for each key group (primary schools, pool operators, swimming teachers and parents and carers). Each section provides practical guidance on how to plan, deliver and report on curriculum swimming and water safety.

The new resource pack will be free to download from [swimming.org](https://swimming.org) early in the New Year. It will be sent directly to all primary schools, operators and deliverers of curriculum swimming and water safety, and with parents and carers.

For more information, please email [schoolswimmingreview@swimming.org](mailto:schoolswimmingreview@swimming.org) or visit [swimming.org/schools](https://swimming.org/schools)

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