



ST. LEONARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

4th September 2020

Dear Parents

SWIMMING ARRANGEMENTS

The children in Years 3 and 4 will be attending swimming lessons at Stafford Leisure Centre on **Thursday mornings** commencing on 10th September 2020 and ending on 1st April 2021.

The children will be walking to and from the Leisure Centre whatever the weather, so please ensure they have a coat every week. If you have any queries please contact the School Office via email office@st-leonards-stafford.staffs.sch.uk

Our service level agreement is now with Freedom Leisure, not Entrust. They may

School uniform must be worn and no jewellery [including earrings] is allowed. Please remember that taping over earrings is forbidden for safety reasons. Children with verrucas must be provided with a verruca sock. Swimming hats must be worn if your child's hair is long. Boys must wear traditional swimming trunks, no long shorts. Girls must wear a full swimming costume and not bikinis.

Any child who needs to wear goggles must return a signed permission letter which is attached.

Yours sincerely

Mrs H Spearing
Headteacher



St. Leonard's Primary School

School Swimming Lessons - use of goggles

I have been informed by Staffordshire Schools' Swimming Service that current 'safe practice in school sport' discourages the use of goggles for school swimming lessons (Please refer to the attached guidance notes).

If you wish to allow your child to wear goggles in the future for school swimming lessons, you will need to sign the enhanced disclaimer below.

Thank You

**Mrs H Spearing
Headteacher**

St. Leonard's Primary School
School swimming lessons - use of goggles

I have read and understood the guidance letter regarding 'safe practice in school sport'.

Please tick the appropriate statement.

I require my child to wear goggles for swimming lessons because

- they are regularly involved in swimming training sessions
- they have very sensitive eyes
- the following exceptional circumstance applies

Please explain

Child's Name

Class

Signed Person with Parental Responsibility



Staffordshire Schools' Swimming Service

Guidance notes for the use of swimming goggles in Schools (December 2008)

1. Goggles are not necessary within short curriculum swimming lessons (typically 20 to 25 minutes water time) or for single, short races in school galas
2. Goggles are intended for use in long, regular swimming sessions when:
 - a. the eyes would be exposed for long periods to the effects of the chemicals in the water
 - b. the tissue around the eyes does not dry out between training sessions and thus becomes more susceptible to infection
3. For reasons of Safe Practice in School Sport, it is recommended that the use of goggles should not be allowed unless a school is satisfied that a pupil has 'exceptional circumstances' - i.e through involvement in long and frequent training sessions, outside school hours, or if the individual has particularly sensitive eyes, or for some other exceptional circumstance.
4. Wet plastic can be slippery and, frequent, incorrect or unnecessary adjustment or removal of goggles, such as pulling them away from the eyes instead of sliding them over the forehead, could cause an eye injury and parents should be made aware of this risk.
5. In crowded water space there is an increased likelihood of accidental collision that may lead to eye injury by those wearing goggles.
6. When large numbers of pupils complain of eye irritation it is likely to be a chemical imbalance which can be easily rectified.
7. In the rare circumstances where the use of goggles are allowed in a school, as described in (paragraph 3), the adult responsible for the group has the right to require the pupil to remove them for reasons of safe practice if a pupil uses them inappropriately.
8. It is a parents' responsibility to ensure their child is able to safely apply and remove the goggles.
9. Certain aspects of the Water Safety and Personal Survival Award do require a pupil to remove their goggles.
10. A medical certificate is not essential for a school to allow a pupil to use goggles. However, schools do, as a minimum, require a letter from a parent stating the pupil's 'exceptional circumstances' to enable a school to consider a request for their child to use goggles during a school swimming activity.
11. Please note it is important that all parents of children who swim under the care of a school have access to these guidance notes prior to commencing a swimming activity. This will ensure that parents are aware of the current Safe Practice in School Sport guidelines referred to in this document concerning the use of goggles.