

Rationale

Swimming is an integral and essential part of the physical education program. Becoming a confident and competent swimmer is essential to student safety, as well as increasing opportunities for both leisure and sporting pursuits.

Aims

To introduce and develop swimming strokes, water skills and personal safety awareness.

Implementation

1. Swimming Venue and Program

- 1.1. The swimming program will be held for students at selected swim centres.
- 1.2. Selected Swim Centre Staff will coordinate and implement all swim lessons.
- 1.3. The program will consist of 30 to 45 minute lessons each day for 1 week (weather permitting).
- 1.4. The College's annual swimming program will be organised and coordinated by a College staff member and will only involve the use of municipal and commercial swimming pools, and will comply with Department of Education requirements at all times.
- 1.5. Parents will be required to pay the concession entry fee to the selected swim centre and bus hire costs. All other associated costs will be covered by the College. Parents/Guardians experiencing financial difficulty should contact the College administration staff.

2. Supervision

- 2.1. At least one swim centre staff member must hold an AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety Certificate and, where possible, a second staff member should hold the same certificate.
- 2.2. A teacher employed by the Department must
 - a) be in attendance
 - b) have overall responsibility for the activity and legal responsibility for emergency procedures.
- 2.3. When arranging for supervision of swimming or water activities schools must take into account the age and experience of the students as well as the venue and experience of staff.
- 2.4. Minimum overall Departmental staff-student ratios will be followed at all times. That is: -
 - a) **Beginners:** (shallow water – little or no experience) 1 staff to maximum 10 students.
 - b) **Intermediate:** (basic skills and able to swim 25 metres with a recognisable stroke)
1 staff to maximum 12 students
 - c) **Advanced:** (able to swim 50 metres using 2 recognisable strokes and demonstrate 1 survival stroke in deep water) 1 staff to maximum 15 students.
 - d) **Surf Beaches:** (groups should be no greater than 50) 1 staff to maximum 5 students.

- e) **Open Deep Water Venues:** 1 staff to maximum 10 students.

3. Safety and Health Precautions

- 3.1. The College works in harmony with the procedures used by pool owners, pool managers or rescue and life-saving patrols and outlines areas of responsibilities and organisation required to carry out a rescue and maintain student safety.
- 3.2. Parents must provide a completed and signed swimming permission form for their child to participate in the program, and staff associated with the swimming program are to be made familiar with medical histories of students in respect to conditions that will have an impact on the activity.
- 3.3. Students with gastroenteritis, ear infections, throat infections, colds, papillomas and other contagious infections will not be permitted to enter the water until they have recovered.

Related Policies / Documents

Swimming Instruction and Water Safety Policy

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/swimming.aspx#link72>

HGC Child Safety Policy

HGC Sunsmart Policy

First Aid Policy

Anaphylaxis Policy

Evaluation

This policy was created in term 3 of 2017

This policy will be reviewed as part of the College's annual review cycle