

SWIMMING POLICY

Preamble

For the purposes of this policy, a swimming program is defined as an activity organised by the school whereby students leave the school grounds for the purpose of engaging in educational activities that require swimming in water (including swimming lessons and swimming sports and camps).

In 2018, The Swimming in Schools initiative was introduced in Victorian Government Schools. The initiative was designed to increase opportunities for students to learn how to swim, and ensure they develop lifelong skills in swimming and water safety to reduce their risk of drowning and injury. Swimming and water safety programs in schools incorporate both in-water practical components and in-class theory components.

Funding towards the cost of swimming and water safety programs for Victorian government primary schools will continue to be distributed through the Student Resource Package until 2024. Funding will support schools to fulfil the swimming and water safety requirements of Health and Physical Education in the Victorian Curriculum F-10.

Rationale

Mount Ridley P–12 College recognises that a swimming program complements and is an important aspect of the educational programs offered, as it provides the direct educational experience of learning to swim. Facilitation of learning this invaluable lifelong skill will allow students to gain further educational experiences involving activities around water.

Guiding Principles

Mount Ridley P–12 College is committed to providing students with the opportunity to learn to swim in order to:

- Reinforce, enrich and extend learning opportunities beyond the classroom and beyond school.
- Develop the skills to be able to participate in and learn from water-based activities.
- Develop an understanding that learning is not limited to school and that valuable and powerful learning takes place in the real world.

In 2018 it was decided that the 'Swimming in Schools funding' would be used for students at Year 5 level at the College. Students who do not show sufficient progress and meet the swimming standards will be given the opportunity to repeat the program in Year 6 if necessary.

Implementation

The following guidelines will be adhered to in relation to the application of this policy:

- The College Operations Team must approve all swimming programs.
- The Sport Program Leader will organise the schedule of swimming programs for the school year, endeavouring to minimise disruptions to classes and ensuring that all Department of Education and Training (DET) requirements are adhered to.
- Prior to any child attending a swimming program, parents/guardians must have provided consent via the local excursion document. Verbal permission will not be accepted.
- Parents must complete an 'Ability Level' form indicating their child's current swimming ability for the purpose of grouping accordingly. Parents can 'opt out' of the program for a variety of reasons, by completing the statement at the bottom of this document.

- The designated Sport Program Leader must ensure that the College Excursion Planning Process is adhered to including notification of parents via the college Compass app.
- The money needed for lessons comes from the 'Swimming in Schools Initiative.'
- The Sport Program Leader will ensure that there are mobile phones and first-aid backpacks including ASCIA and allergy plans for all swimming excursions, as per the College Excursion Planning Process. If a personal mobile is used, the General Office is to be notified of phone numbers. If no personal mobile phone is available, the use of a college mobile must be booked.
- Department of Education and Training (DET) ratios must be adhered to in relation to supervision. One adult to twenty students is the standard ratio when transporting students to and from a swimming lesson, however the Sport Program Leader must check the ratios on the DET website, as they differ depending on the activity being undertaken,
- Swimming lesson ratios must not exceed a maximum of 1:10, teacher to student.
- Swim instructors must be Aus Swim Qualified. All lessons are to be conducted by external instructors
- A list of students, teachers and helpers attending the swimming program/excursion, must be up to date on Compass prior to the event. Excursion staff must carry a list of students, teachers and helpers attending the swimming excursion at all times, as well as a list of parent contact details.
- Only children who have displayed behaviour in line with the College Values will be invited to participate in college swimming programs and excursions. Parents will be notified if a child is in danger of losing their invitation to participate in a swimming program or excursion due to poor behaviour at school. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Student Support and Enrichment Program Assistant Principal in consultation with the classroom teacher and the Sport Program Leader.
- If a parent has decided that their child is unable to attend the swimming program for family, religious or medical reasons and has 'opted out', then the child is expected to attend school for the normal school day and will be placed into another classroom for the duration of the program.

Evaluation

As part of the College review cycle this policy will be reviewed every three years.

Date policy ratified: 10/8/2021

Date of next review: 2024