

Welburn Hall School



Pool Safety

**Review Period: Two Years
Next review Due: Autumn - 2016
Reviewed and Amended: Nov 2014,
Adopted by Governors: Nov 2014**

**Signed by Chair of Governors:.....
(12/11/14)**

This policy has been developed to provide clear guidelines for the supervision of children in the hydrotherapy pool. It seeks to minimise, as much as possible, the chances of harm to children or staff due to insufficient supervision.

1.0 THE POLICY

1.1 All staff will be expected to be aware of certain minimum requirements and apply these to their practice. The following, therefore, must always be the case:

- There must never be more than 6 persons in the pool at any one time, whether child or staff member, regardless of their ability
- At least one member of staff supervising must have had pool safety training.
- There must always be a minimum of 2 staff present for any size group
- In all cases, there is a need for at least 1 member of staff to supervise the group as a whole
- All staff who are at the side of the pool to supervise must be willing to get in as soon as a problem is apparent, whether they are dressed or not

1.2 ***In addition*** to the above, there are further policies in regard to certain children who have specific needs. These appear to fall into two main categories and a decision must be made as to the status of each child in relation to these:

i) Pupils/students who need help whilst in the water:

Any child who has significant physical or medical problems which render them unable to move freely and easily in the water must have a member of staff with them in the pool at all times. That person is responsible directly for the child and will provide both constant observation and physical aid where necessary.

ii) Pupils/students who need continual observation whilst in the water

Children with conditions such as epilepsy, who may suddenly become incapacitated or disorientated, must be closely and continually observed. It is likely that this will be better done from outside of the water by a member of staff who can move around the pool to maintain a good view of a particular child. However, as stated above, this person must be willing to get in the water at any time.

Again, it is important that there is a dedicated member of staff to each child assessed to be in this category. Their responsibility must remain with that child during the whole time they are in the water.

- 1.3 **Example** – in the case of a group of six children with one child with significant physical needs and one with epilepsy, a staff team of two must make decisions about how best the session can be managed. Clearly, to have both children in the water at the same time would need three staff, one in the water with the child with physical needs, one closely observing the epileptic and the third observing the group as a whole. Even then, because of the six-person limit, one of the other children would have to wait for a swim until someone got out of the pool.
- 1.4 It will quite likely be the case that extra staff are not available, which will inevitably mean that the two children with specific needs will have to swim separately. A split into two groups would be the most effective and useful way of enabling all pupils to have a social swimming experience.

2.0 PROCESS

- 2.1 Before any child new to the school can use the pool, it is essential that their abilities and needs are assessed and agreement found as to whether they fall into one of the above categories. This must be recorded in their care plan.
- 2.2 In the event of an emergency, staff should use the 'phone in the physiotherapy department to alert emergency services before calling the for assistance via the school office. This 'phone, although normally restricted to internal calls only, is capable of dialling '999'. In the interests of both safety and consistent practice, all staff are required to read and adhere to this policy.