

Swimming Supporting Document 1

Following thorough consultation with the schools of South Derbyshire they are reporting a range of barriers that are negatively affecting their ability to offer their students the opportunity of 15 hours of School Swimming during their Key Stage 2 journey and therefore the chance of them achieving the national benchmarks. The main barriers highlighted include.

- 1 Increased cost of transportation of students to and from the pool.
- 2 Ever increasing logistical complications i.e., staffing, paperwork, etc.
- 3 Greater amounts of classroom learning missed therefore impacting on a student's wider attainment across other curriculum areas.
- 4 General cost of School Swimming programmes currently available.
- 5 Lack of pool availability in the local area.
- 6 Inclusion of SENd pupils accessing the swimming programme.

Testimonial 1 – Rykneld Primary School (Mr Rob Cruise, Headteacher)

Increased cost of transportation of students to and from the pool.

The cost to the school last year, for the full year and for two-year groups came in at £13,312.50. This is significant in comparison to the price that we will be paying for the facility on site here at school in 2024.

Ever increasing logistical complications i.e. staffing, paperwork, etc.

I would not say this is an 'ever increasing' problem, just a problem that has always been there. Staff would sometimes change weekly and schools wouldn't know of this change until arriving. This then meant that teaching staff at the pool were not familiar with abilities which restricted earning time.

Other problems have been around paperwork in the sense that this was never an accurate job of the local staff. They didn't always complete it and by the end of a unit/half term, when asked who has achieved a certificate, the response was frequently, "I don't know". This was down to staff changes, lost sheets over the period of the time spent swimming or staff simply not completing paperwork. This then caused schools frustrations and indeed parents as children often missed out on certificates.

Greater amounts of classroom learning missed therefore impacting on a student's wider attainment across other curriculum areas.

This is a significant issue and always has been. Children would have a 30-minute lesson but would lose up to 2 hours of other time due to coach travel, changing times and then back again. This is the biggest issue of all.

General cost of School Swimming programmes currently available.

We did not obtain a price for this year from Meadowside as we had already chosen to opt for the pool on site.

Lack of pool availability in the local area.

Meadowside is the only pool on offer at this current time for a total of roughly 40 schools in east Staffordshire.

Inclusion of SEND pupils accessing the swimming programme.

All pupils have had access to swimming in the past, inclusive of SEND. We have not experienced a child who has not accessed swimming due to any additional needs.

**Testimonial 2 – St Edward’s Catholic Primary School
(Mrs Kay Methven, Headteacher)**

Increased cost of transportation of students to and from the pool.

The cost for two classes to go swimming in the 2022/23 academic year was £7500. This does not include transport cost as the classes walked to the leisure centre.

Ever increasing logistical complications i.e. staffing, paperwork, etc.

This issue has had multiple impacts on our school in the previous academic year. Due to the number of staff needed to walk the class to the leisure centre has meant that sometimes the HT has had to support these sessions. Also due to so many staff needed to go then all these staff are out of action from their duties for a long period of time.

With regards to the swimming teaching staff, it tended to be that the fully qualified swim instructor was teaching the children that can already swim and the support staff would have to try and teach the beginners the techniques and how to swim.

Greater amounts of classroom learning missed therefore impacting on a student’s wider attainment across other curriculum areas.

Moving towards the pools to school’s programme the children will roughly gain back 36 hours across the year back into the classroom and vital learning time.

General cost of School Swimming programmes currently available.

St Edward’s did not obtain a price from DCC swimming.

Lack of pool availability in the local area.

There is very limited access for our classes to attend Greenbank LC and therefore we have been given in the past time slots that don’t really suit the academic day. Also, from knowing the local area there has been a greater demand on the leisure centre as a local pool used by other schools has been closed for refurbishments.

Inclusion of SEND pupils accessing the swimming programme.

Having the pools to schools programme will assist us as a school with allowing all students to attend the swimming programme. As a school we have a student with high level EHCP who would not be allowed to attend 'normal' swimming lessons due to their needs but with the pool being on site this will allow for the certain child to access the pool.

Testimonial 3 – Fairmeadows Foundation Primary School (Mr Andrew Reeves, Headteacher)

We have traditionally used Greenbank for our swimming lessons dating back to at least 1999. The last time we paid for swimming including transport the cost was around £6000. It was inconvenient, time consuming and increasingly a battle with other schools to take an afternoon slot to minimise curriculum disruption of core lessons. We pivoted to an on-site swimming solution last year. The total cost was £6800 including one off payments for installing the relevant electricity supply.

The advantages were as follows:

1. There were no lost time transporting pupils to the swimming pool. (1.5 hours of lost time for a 30-minute lesson.)
2. Multiple groups could swim. We were able to offer swimming lessons to 120 pupils per week, over the usual 30.
3. Expert coaching. In groups of 10 pupils received expert swimming teaching, our teachers were not used to supplement instructors meaning each pupil was taught by a qualified and certified instructor and not staff who might have a few hours CPD under their belt.
4. SEND. SEND pupils could swim in smaller groups and were able to fully access the facility which has not always been the case at Greenbank due to size, travel, smells and the presence of the public etc.
5. Safety. The work of risk assessing the activity was far more straightforward and included fewer opportunities where children could be exposed to safeguarding risks/safety risks.
6. After school clubs. The teacher and lifeguard could stay beyond the school day and offer children in Year 1 and 2 or disadvantaged pupils swimming sessions paid for by parents or from the school PP fund.
7. Curriculum enrichment. Pupils were swimming for 30 minutes a day every day in a set window meaning the curriculum time lost was minimal.
8. Intensive period. Pupils swim for 4 weeks, each day, every day at school. This intense repetition helps them improve quickly and gain confidence. It also means a shortened window of disruption and less learning lost between lessons.
9. In total 138 pupils swam last year and the same will be true this year. This means that a pupil in Year 3 will swim for 40 hours during their time at Fairmeadows. A pupil in Year 3 operating at Greenbank will swim for 16 over the same four-year

period. Overall, we are able to offer 80 hours a year in swimming lessons against 16 hours a year.

It is a wonderful initiative and we have found the future of our swimming teaching.

Testimonial 4 – Linton Primary School (Michelle Dytham, Deputy Headteacher)

Linton Primary School have used the local swimming pools within the area for a number of years, however, for multiple reasons we have decided to move away from the traditional delivery method of School Swimming and are excited to undertake this new method of School Swimming. We would love it to be with the SDASP. These main reasons include:

- Our students will not lose as much classroom time due to complicated logistical issues, this is vital to maximise our students attainment. This also effects our School staff as well in order to meet safeguarding ratios. We find that we have to commit a large number of staff to attend the local pools with the students which we have to withdraw from other classes. Again this then has an impact on other students attainment throughout our School.
- Financially this new School Swimming method is far more financially viable for our School which is important when School budgets are so tight.
- SEND students will be able to complete their Swimming lessons in far smaller groups therefore maximising their Swimming development with smaller Instructor to student ratios. We have previously found this not to be the case with local pools.
- For students that do not meet the end of KS2 National Swimming benchmarks we would love to offer our students the opportunity to access an additional intervention programme although this is not an option due to pool availability. With this new method we will be in a position to offer this provision to the relevant students.

Testimonials given from Elite Swimming –

I just wanted to give some feedback on our swimming session with ELITE Swimming yesterday. It was one of my favourite ever days in my 22 year teaching career! I have never taken Year 1 children anywhere near a swimming pool, but the awe, wonder, excitement and pride on their faces took away all of the nerves I personally felt before the session. The ladies in charge gave me total confidence that the children were 100% safe at all times.

Miss H Farrell, St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, CV6 3BL

The children love it, and the staff you have sent over are wonderful. Eddy is a dream and he's built up a lovely relationship with our children. We have already signed off a class of children and are moving onto year 5, so that's 3-year groups swimming now.

Sue-Ellen Lamb Headteacher, Race Leys Junior School, CV12 8HG