

Swimming Provision at Lowton West Primary School

Swimming in the National Curriculum

By the time a child is ready to leave primary school they should be able to swim, know how to get out of trouble if they fall into water, know the dangers of water and understand how to stay safe when playing in and around it.

It is part of the national curriculum PE programme of study for England, so all local authority-maintained primary schools must provide swimming and water safety instruction.

The National Curriculum PE Programme of Study states that swimming and water safety instruction must be provided in either Key Stage 1 or Key Stage 2. AT Lowton West Primary School, swimming lessons are provided as part of the PE curriculum in Year 4.

School provides sufficient swimming opportunities to ensure all pupils make progress and achieve their very best in swimming and water safety. By all pupils, this includes those with special educational needs, those with a disability or impairment and those whose first language is not English.

The requirement is for all Year 6 pupils to meet the statutory minimum standard of capability and confidence in swimming and safe self-rescue, as set out in the national curriculum. The minimum requirement is that, by the time they are ready to leave Key Stage 2, every child is able to:

- swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres
- use a range of strokes effectively
- perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations

All pupils are assessed against a range of skills in order to achieve the National Curriculum

Current Data

Year Six cohort 2020-2021 showed that 72% of pupils achieved the national curriculum standard in all three areas outlined above.

The Year Four data for this cohort showed that only 61% had achieved the national curriculum standard in all three areas at the end of the statutory lessons. 25 pupils were therefore identified for additional swimming lessons funded through Sport Premium in Year Five (Autumn 2019).

The targeted cohort of pupils identified at the end of their statutory swimming lessons in Year 4 had begun their additional sessions in Year 5, but not all pupils completed the planned sessions due to the Covid-19 lockdown March 2020.

Of the 25 pupils identified, 7 pupils achieved the national curriculum swimming requirements during Year 5. This means the percentage of Year 5 pupils who have achieved the national curriculum swimming requirements has increased from 61% to 72%. These figures were based on the most recent swimming teacher assessments available, which were completed in February 2020. Some Year 5 pupils did continue to attend swimming lessons for several weeks after this assessment date and continued to make further progress. All pupils made considerable progress from their starting points.

School data for the current Year 6 cohort (2021-2022) is limited due to the Covid-19 lockdown March 2020, which caused all swimming lessons to cease. School are currently working with parents to gather more data to try and ascertain the impact of the Covid-19 on the Year 6 swimming standards and plan additional lessons funded through Sport Premium sessions to provide more opportunities for those identified in Upper Key Stage Two.

Gathering assessment data Autumn 2021

In order to gain a clearer picture of standards in swimming across Upper Key Stage Two, school are conducting a parental survey, Autumn 2021.

The recent parental surveys are indicating that the percentage of pupils achieving the minimum National Curriculum swimming standards for KS2 has decreased over the last two years. There has been limited opportunities for pupils to experience and attend swimming lessons due to Covid-19 restrictions, both in school and at home, which has significantly impacted upon the current standards of the pupils in Upper Key Stage Two.

The results of the parental surveys will be reported once completed and used to help plan provision this academic year.

Swimming provision Autumn 2021 onwards

Swimming lessons for Year Four pupils have recommenced September 2021. School have planned to provide additional lessons for as many pupils in Upper Key Stage Two as possible through the Sport Premium funding to increase the number of pupils achieving the national curriculum standard and also provide opportunities for non-swimmers who, without support through the Sport Premium, may not make progress and achieve their very best in swimming and water safety by the end of Key Stage Two.

These include Pupil Premium pupils and a high percentage of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups who are non-swimmers.