

Swimming and Water Safety Provision 2025/2026

Swaffham CofE Primary Academy

At Swaffham CofE Primary Academy, we are committed to ensuring that all pupils develop the essential swimming and water safety skills outlined in the National Curriculum. Swimming is an important part of our PE curriculum, helping children to build confidence, resilience and lifelong skills that contribute to their health, wellbeing and personal safety.

Swimming Provision Overview

Venue: Dereham Leisure Centre (Learners' Pool and Main Pool)

Transport: Coach travel (a significant cost factor)

Year Groups:

- Year 5 – Autumn 1 (half term)
- Year 4 – Autumn 2 (half term)
- Year 3 – Spring 1 (half term)

While we would like to offer additional swimming opportunities, particularly for pupils who require further support to meet the expected standard, this continues to be limited by transport costs and the overall school budget.

Impact and Inclusion

Swimming provides valuable opportunities for all pupils, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds or with limited experience of swimming outside school. For many children, these lessons are their only opportunity to access regular swimming instruction.

As a school with a high proportion of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium and a wide range of additional needs, we are proud to ensure that swimming is as inclusive as possible. Lessons provide pupils with:

- A calm, structured learning environment.
- Opportunities to develop confidence and resilience.
- Personal challenge and measurable progress.
- Essential water safety knowledge alongside practical swimming skills.

This year, for the first time, two pupils from our Complex Needs Provision successfully accessed swimming lessons alongside the main Year 3 class. With support from their class teacher in the pool where required, both pupils were able to participate fully and benefit from the experience. This was a positive step forward in developing our inclusive practice and ensuring all pupils have access to high-quality swimming provision.

Across all year groups, pupils made excellent progress, from children entering the water for the first time to those refining strokes, improving stamina and becoming more confident in deeper water.

Pupil Voice

"I'd never been swimming before, but now I can go in the deep end!" – Year 3

"It was fun using the big pool—we had races and I got better each week." – Year 4

"I liked trying all the different strokes. I didn't think I'd be able to swim front crawl, but I did." – Year 5

Staff Voice

"The difference from week one to week six is amazing. Even the most reluctant swimmers come away with confidence and skills."

"It's particularly beneficial for our more vulnerable pupils. It's structured, calm and they receive encouragement for both effort and achievement."

"The team at Dereham Leisure Centre are fantastic with our children. They adapt sessions to meet individual needs and ensure every child is supported to make progress."

Next Steps

- Continue to provide swimming lessons for all Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 pupils.
- Explore opportunities to provide additional catch-up sessions for pupils who do not yet meet the expected National Curriculum standard by the end of Year 6.
- Continue developing inclusive swimming provision to ensure pupils with SEND can access lessons successfully.
- Investigate funding opportunities to help reduce transport costs and maximise the amount of swimming provision we can offer.
- Further strengthen assessment and tracking systems to monitor pupil progress and inform future provision.