

Swimming Provision and Standards at Queen's Drive Primary School

It is a requirement for all schools to provide free swimming sessions for pupils by the end of Key Stage 2. At Queen's Drive, we take swimming very seriously as we feel it is a life-long skill that the children should be able to use recreationally and if ever a situation arose in which they needed to save themselves.

Pupils in year 5 swim for one term each: one class in the autumn term and the other in the spring term. This leaves the summer term for the school to use for additional swimming for those children who have not met the national expectations set out in the curriculum. These top-up sessions prove invaluable in supporting the less confident swimmers, in smaller class sizes, to gain the basic strokes and water safety skills.

In addition to the statutory expectations for swimming, Queen's Drive invests heavily in additional swimming for pupils in Years 2, 3 and 4. We have run this scheme for the last 5 years now and have seen a huge increase in the numbers of children who are more confident in the water in readiness for the swimming curriculum in Year 5. Each half term a different class attends weekly swimming sessions to build up their confidence. Year 4 attend in the autumn term, Year 3 in the spring term and Year 2 in the summer term.

In addition to the costs involved in running these additional sessions, the school has also invested in CPD for 5 of its staff to be able to assist on poolside with the swimming sessions. These staff have been awarded their ASA level 1 module which enables them to work closely with the swimming teachers. This has also had a very positive impact on the standards achieved by the children.

The school takes part in the Preston Primary Schools' Swimming Gala and Triathlon each year. The school achieves highly in these competitions year on year demonstrating that the provision which is in place is a very successful one. All pupils in Years 5 and 6 take part in our own inter-house swimming gala each December. This event is a mixture of traditional races and fun relays. We even incorporate water polo in to the event. This is a great event.

The 2017/18 Year 6 cohort left the school with a very secure set of swimming skills. From the 62 pupils in the year group, only 4 children did not meet the national expectations for swimming. This equates to only 6%. This means that 94% of the children left school being able to confidently swim 25 metres or more on their front and back using a recognised stroke. All pupils were able to carry out basic water safety rescues and had a secure grasp of basic water safety.