

School Swimming Lessons at The Lido

From the Swim England website:

England is one of relatively few countries in the world to include Swimming and Water Safety on its National Curriculum. The national curriculum in England sets out the programmes of study and attainment targets for all subjects at all 4 key stages of statutory education. By the end of Key Stage 2 of the Primary Curriculum (age 7 to 11), the Physical Education programme of study states that:

All schools must provide swimming instruction either in key stage 1 or key stage 2.

In particular, pupils should be taught to:

- *swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres*
- *use a range of strokes effectively [for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke]*
- *perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations [1].*

All local-authority-maintained primary schools in England (10,312 [2]) must teach these programmes of study. Many academies (6,474 [2]) and independents (No data available) also follow this programme of study.

However, it is up to the schools which years they take for school swimming. Some schools do it in Year 3 and 4 (Christ Church), some do it across all years (St Marys), some do it in Year 5/6 . Some don't appear to do it at all.

I think it would be important to pin down what we are offering and to what year group as this would be the best place to start for costings.

It would not be possible to complete the school swimming curriculum over the 6 week summer term at the lido in half an hour lessons assuming they come once a week. I don't think it would even be achievable for most children if this was increased to 1 hour per week.

This would mean we would need to offer this to multiple year groups across several years in order to meet the curriculum, and make it an attractive offer to the schools. For example, children would need to attend for the 6 week summer term in year 3, again in year 4 and possibly again in year 5. The costings for offering this would need to span several years

As far as current places that offer school swimming, I have been told St Catherines currently use Fanshawe, and Sacred Heart use John Warner. St Marys have their own pool so would be unlikely to take up this offer for any students except year 6 as they have visited with this class this season.

Schools who currently have bookings at indoor pools would be unlikely to give up their spots there as there is no guarantee they would get them back once our offer ends.

There are 6 Primary Schools in Ware with varied amounts of students per year group:

Christ Church School- Yr3/4 x 3 classes = 90

Sacred Heart - Yr3/4 x 2 classes = 60

St Marys- Yr3 x 2 , Yr 4 x 2 classes = 120

Larkspur- Yr3/4 mixed x1 = 30

St Catherines- Yr3 x2 , Y4 x2 = 120

Priors Wood – Yr3 x 1 , Yr4 x1 = 60

=480 pupils assuming we just offer this to Year 3 & 4, OR 960 pupils if we had to carry our offering further through ks2 to include Years 3/4/5/6

From the 480 pupils we could take a max of 30 for a session (1 class) which would mean we need to run 16 x 30 min sessions a week for school swimming to accommodate Year3/4, and twice this amount to run for all of KS2.

COST

30 pupils = 3 x Level 2 teachers @ £20ph = £60 per class

Potentially 2 x Level 1 teachers @ £18ph = £36 per class

2x Lifeguards @ £13ph = £26

Overall staff costs for 1 hour = £122

For this level of supervision I believe we would need to employ the swim teachers on a contracted number of hours, and we would not be able to staff this with our usual seasonal cohort.

School swimming in the summer term would begin at the beginning of June, meaning many of our university students would not be back in time.

Assuming we need to run 16 x 1 hour sessions in a week to cover every child in Year3/4 from the 6 schools above- we would need to close out public sessions for potentially 16 hours per week to include changing times.

We currently close for 10 hours a week in the early afternoon for private hire bookings, but would lose a further 6hours from public sessions.

The midweek low season sessions aren't hugely popular – they often run under capacity, so I don't think there is much to imply there would be a huge loss of income.

Other considerations

I am not sure schools would still attend if the weather was really poor, as they often have half the group sitting on the side waiting their turn, and there wouldn't be anywhere to have 30 people waiting indoors if it was needed.

A pergola/gazebo/shelter could solve this problem.

I don't know that its worth consulting with schools on their preference for changing rooms if the withdrawal of funding hasn't been properly signed off - I cant find any document online that suggests this will be the case? Where did this come from? If its anecdotal then this feels like an unreasonable position to base our plans on.

Also,schools would have far bigger considerations to make about whether the lido was a suitable venue beyond the changing rooms due to the change of location, weather, times/days offered and bookings they may have elsewhere. I don't think it's a decision they will arrive at quickly.

It is worth noting that St Marys school are booked at the lido for 6 weeks of school swimming this term, and that despite their relative proximity to the lido ,have arrived and departed via Coach.

Priory Street is not built for a coach drop off, and nor is our carpark.

If other schools took the same approach we would need to consider this in plans also.

For Reference:

Changing rooms and safeguarding documents for youth organisations

Swim England have a safeguarding policy that applies to all children in competitive sport known as 'Wavepower' .<https://www.swimming.org/library/documents/6383/download>

With regards to mixed changing areas it says the following:

"We strongly recommend that Organisations engage locally with pool providers to create simple barrier systems, or make use of natural barriers between cubicles (e.g. lockers) to enable mixed 'changing villages' to be used only as separate changing areas for either sex. Children of different sexes should change in separate areas, never in the same cubicle, or adjoining cubicles. This will help in preventing crimes involving covert use of cameras or phones."

The Scout Association doesn't have specific policy on mixed vs single changing rooms, but in their inclusivity policy (<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/equity-diversity-and-inclusion/>) it says the following:

- *Providing mixed-gender (also known as 'gender neutral' or 'unisex') toilets wherever possible*
- *Re-labelling one set of toilets, or an accessible toilet, as gender-neutral*
- *Using venues with self-contained or individual toilets and shower cubicles that can be used by anyone*
- *Designating a private changing space for anyone who needs to use it*
- *Creating partitions using sheets or screens in changing areas, so that all members can have privacy*
- *Developing a rota, so that everyone can have private bathing / bathroom time*

In Summary

I don't believe we should be canvassing opinions from people who don't currently use the lido on the basis that one day we might try to achieve the relatively difficult task of providing school swimming lessons.