

Risk Assessment for Linton Heights Junior School Swimming Pool – Also see Pool Safety Operating Procedure

Area, task or activity: Swimming pool		Location: LHJS		Date of Assessment: Reviewed 18 th April 2024		
Significant Hazards	Who might be harmed and how?	Current control measures	Likelihood of harm or loss occurring with current controls in place? (High, Medium or Low)	Further control measures (if required)	Residual Risk (High, Medium or Low)? Is this acceptable?	Date controls are to be implemented and by whom
The HSE document <u>Health and Safety in Swimming Pools</u> sets out the following hazards as factors in past deaths or serious injuries:						
Inadequate, inappropriate or no supervision	Learners – drowning Swim scheme members – drowning	All swimming lessons require there to be two members of school staff present. At least one of these members of staff has up to date first aid training and annually renewed resuscitation training. All swimming hats are put on prior to any children entering the water so that attention is not taken away from those in the pool. The conditions of the agreement state that 3 adults must be present and at least 2 must have attended the resuscitation training	M	A maximum of 20 swimmers are permitted into the pool at any one time. Children are reminded to behave in a way that does not distract the staff from close supervision of those in the pool. They sit on designated benches.	L	Controls implemented when pool is commissioned (May-October) Teachers Teaching Assistants Members of the swim scheme.
Absence of, or inadequate response by, lifeguards in an emergency	Learners – drowning Swim scheme members – drowning	As our pool is class as a shallow pool (under 1m deep) and our maximum number of bathers is low – constant poolside supervision by a lifeguard is not reasonably practicable. All staff teaching swimming wear PE kit to allow for ease of entering the water if necessary. See above for supervision.	M	Teachers and Teaching Assistants have received first aid and resuscitation training.	L	Controls implemented when pool is commissioned (May-October) Teachers Teaching Assistants Members of the swim scheme.
Glare	Learners – drowning Swim scheme members – drowning	Teachers are made aware that glare is an issue that might put children in danger. Teachers are asked to teach from the side of the pool furthest from the gate to minimise glare. Additional adults stand at different locations around the pool so that no one area of the pool is unsighted. Swim scheme adults are responsible for supervising their children in their care.	M	Adults supervising swimming could wear sunglasses to minimise glare. Children should not swim if adults can not see the bottom of the pool.	L	Controls implemented when pool is commissioned (May-October) Teachers Teaching Assistants Members of the swim scheme.

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Failure to identify casualties because of unclear pool water or obstructions in the line of vision.	Learners – drowning or illness caused by chemical imbalance or unclean water. Swim scheme members – drowning or illness caused by chemical imbalance or unclean water.	As above. Water quality is checked daily by the pool carers. If the pool is cloudy and the bottom cannot be seen then swimming lessons do not take place. As above	L	Children are reminded not to obstruct the vision of the staff supervising the pool area.	L	Controls implemented when pool is commissioned (May-October) Teachers Teaching Assistants Pool carers Members of the swim scheme.
Unauthorised access to pool intended to be out of use.	Any person accesses the pool without permission - drowning	The gate is locked when the pool is not in use. The key is kept in a combination key safe. The combination is only known by school staff and members of the swim scheme. The pool is surrounded by a 6ft fence.	L	As part of the agreement, swim scheme members are instructed not to share the key safe combination with other people.	L	All year Teachers Teaching Assistants Caretaker Members of the swim scheme
Prior health problems e.g. asthma and epilepsy	Learners - drowning, asthma attack Swim scheme members - drowning, asthma attack	All medication held by the school for individual children is taken across to the pool with the children to allow for easy access to it. For children with epilepsy, an additional adult is used to supervise the epileptic child at all times whilst in the pool. Swim scheme adults are responsible for the health of the children in their care.	M	Further control measures may be added based on the child's individual care plan.	L	Controls implemented when pool is commissioned (May-October) Teachers Teaching Assistants Members of the swim scheme.
Consuming alcohol or food before swimming	Learners – drowning, sickness Swim scheme members – drowning, sickness	Children do not swim within 30 minutes of eating their lunch. The swim scheme agreement states that no food is allowed in the pool area and no alcohol or picnics are permitted in the school grounds.	L		L	Controls implemented when pool is commissioned (May-October) Teachers Teaching Assistants Members of the swim scheme.
Youth and inexperience	Learners - drowning Swim scheme members - drowning	In the first swimming lesson of the term, children's abilities to swim and their confidence is assessed by the teacher. This allows the teacher to make appropriate steps to teach the children whilst also keeping them safe. At least 3 adults must be present during the swim scheme.	L	Behaviour expectations and safety procedures (as set out in the NOP) are repeated in every lesson.	L	Controls implemented when pool is commissioned (May-October) Teachers Teaching Assistants Members of the swim scheme.
Weak or non-swimmers straying out of their depth	Learners and Swim scheme members - drowning Learners - drowning	The pool is one depth. There is no shallow end or deep end. Weakest swimmers are asked to	L		L	Controls implemented when pool is commissioned (May-October)

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		stay closest to the edge. As above, the children's abilities are assessed so that lessons can be adjusted for non-swimmers.				Teachers Teaching Assistants Members of the swim scheme.
Diving into insufficient depth of water	Learners and Swim scheme members - drowning, head or spinal injuries Learners - drowning, head or spinal injuries	No diving or jumping in is permitted. Signs around the pool make this clear. All learners are expected to enter the water from a seated position. They then place their hands beside them and lower themselves in.	L		L	Controls implemented when pool is commissioned (May-October) Teachers Teaching Assistants Members of the swim scheme.
Unruly behaviour and misuse of equipment	Learners - drowning Swim scheme members - drowning	Behaviour expectations are clearly set for the children in line with the school behaviour policy. Children are asked to get out of the pool if their behaviour does not meet these expectations. Behaviour by children not swimming and by children in the changing rooms should not impact on the supervision of the children in the swimming pool. The appropriate use of swimming aids such as floats is demonstrated. The agreement outlines that no tyres, dinghies or lilos should be used. Only two balls are permitted in the pool at any one time.	M	Individuals known to have challenging behaviour are dealt with on a case by case basis. This might mean a child is not permitted to swim or there is a 1:1 adult to supervise them.	L	Controls implemented when pool is commissioned (May-October) Teachers Teaching Assistants Members of the swim scheme.
Additional risk factors identified which are pertinent to our pool:						
Covering and uncovering the pool.	School staff including pool carer - injury Swim scheme members	The pool is uncovered before the first lesson and re-covered at the end of the day by a trained pool carer. The agreement states that an adult must wind the cover back at the beginning of the day. The pool is then covered at the end of the day by the pool carer.	L	Over the winter (Oct-May) the pool is left uncovered.	L	All year Teachers Teaching Assistants Pool Carers Members of the swim scheme
Temperature	Learners and Swim scheme members – hypothermia, heat stroke, burns.	The temperature is taken daily. School swimming ideally takes place between 29-31 degrees. If the temperature is below 25 degrees Celsius, the Headteacher makes a decision if swimming should go ahead. No child is forced to swim. The decision when to	L	Staff supervise children closely. Those showing signs of becoming cold e.g. shivering, blue lips etc. are asked to stop swimming and get dressed.	L	Controls implemented when pool is commissioned (May-October) Teachers Teaching Assistants Members of the swim scheme.

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		<p>decommission the pool for the winter is made by the headteacher based on weather conditions and pool temperatures.</p> <p>Swim scheme adults are responsible for making a decision about if they would like to swim or not.</p>				
Trips, slips and falls	All swimming pool users – grazes, bruises, head injuries, drowning.	<p>Accidental trips and falls into the pool are minimised by anti-slip slabs around the pool. The surround is kept free of hazards. Children are reminded to walk within the pool area.</p> <p>The area around the pool is kept clear of obstacles.</p> <p>Everyone is advised to stay away from the swimming pool cover as the legs supporting it are a trip hazard.</p>	L		L	<p>Controls implemented when pool is commissioned (May-October)</p> <p>Teachers</p> <p>Teaching Assistants</p> <p>Members of the swim scheme.</p>
Ineffective water treatment regime – inadequate disinfection, unclear water, too many chemicals.	Learners, Swim scheme members, school staff particularly the pool carers – infections and disease, chemical burns, poisoning, eye irritations, itching, drowning	<p>All COSHH guidelines are followed.</p> <p>Three members of school staff are trained pool carers. They are the only ones that handle chemicals. Ensure all chemicals are safely stored and locked away in the chemical storage and pump room. Microbiological testing takes place monthly by Supreme Pools. COSHH information available in folder the pump room.</p>	L	No one with diarrhoea open wounds, severe eczema or infectious skin complaints should swim.	L	<p>All year</p> <p>Teachers</p> <p>Teaching Assistants</p> <p>Pool Carers</p> <p>Members of the swim scheme</p>
Uncontrolled escape of chlorine gas, explosion or fire	Learners, Swim scheme members, school staff particularly the pool carers – burns, irritation of respiratory tract, death	<p>All COSHH guidelines are followed.</p> <p>Three members of school staff are trained pool carers. They are the only ones that handle chemicals. Ensure all chemicals are safely stored and locked away in the chemical storage and pump room. COSHH information available in folder the pump room.</p>	L	<p>Fire extinguisher suitable for electrical fires is kept in the pump room.</p> <p>Chemicals are stored off the ground, away from flammable materials and acid and alkalis are kept separate.</p>	L	<p>All year</p> <p>Teachers</p> <p>Teaching Assistants</p> <p>Pool Carers</p> <p>Members of the swim scheme</p>
Weather	All pool users – electrocution, sun burn, heat stroke, hypothermia.	<p>No swimming takes place during thunder storms.</p> <p>In extreme heat, those around the pool (both children who are spectating and staff) are reminded about appropriate clothing, hats, sun cream etc. Children are seated in the shade where possible.</p> <p>In cold or wet weather, those</p>	L	In extreme cases, children can sit in the changing rooms. Although this is not ideal as they can not be easily supervised.	L	<p>Controls implemented when pool is commissioned (May-October)</p> <p>Teachers</p> <p>Teaching Assistants</p> <p>Members of the swim scheme.</p>

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		<p>around the pool (both children who are spectating and staff) are reminded about appropriate clothing.</p> <p>If rain is so heavy it prevents the bottom of the pool being seen, then swimming should not take place.</p> <p>Swim scheme adults are responsible for supervising their children in their care.</p>				
Chemical spillages/ inhalation/ ingestion	Pool carers	<p>Only trained pool carers are permitted to touch the chemicals. PPE (apron, mask, gloves, apron, goggles) are provided for each pool carer.</p> <p>Instructions about how to use the chemicals are available in the small pool operators file, on the side of the chemical container and on the safety data sheets.</p> <p>The pump room door is left open whilst chemicals are being handled to improve ventilation.</p>	M	<p>A chemical spill kit is available in the pump room.</p> <p>A respirator is available in the pump room.</p> <p>Lone worker protocols should be followed if the pool carer is accessing the pool area alone.</p>	L	
Name of Assessor/s: Caroline Webb, Deputy Headteacher			Date of Next Review: Spring 2025		Line Manager/Supervisor: Headteacher, James Puxley	