



## **SWIMMING INSTRUCTION & WATER SAFETY EDUCATION POLICY**

### **Policy & Guidance**

- This policy applies to programs which have the purpose of teaching swimming and water safety as part of the school curriculum.
- Swimming and water safety is included in the [Health and Physical Education Curriculum from Foundation to Level 10](#). This requires schools to ensure that they are implementing a swimming and water safety program that meets the requirements of the curriculum.
- By the end of Year 6, it is anticipated that students should be able to demonstrate the knowledge and skills identified in the Victorian Water Safety Certificate.
- Individual schools are expected to make decisions about how to best incorporate swimming and water safety into their school programs, based on factors such as access to safe swimming facilities/locations, qualified instructors and their broader learning program.
- To help build schools' swimming and water safety programs, the Department has collaborated with Life Saving Victoria (LSV) in developing a [School Swimming and Water Safety Toolkit](#), which provides a full suite of information on:
  - [Water safety messages and statistics](#)
  - [Victorian Curriculum as it relates to swimming and water safety](#)
  - [Funding](#)
  - [Program options](#)
  - [The Victorian Water Safety Certificate](#)
  - [Resources](#)
  - [Professional development](#)
- The Victorian Water Safety Certificate is a Victorian Government initiative, which describes specific competencies that should be achieved by the end of primary school. These competencies identify the knowledge and skills to enable students to safely enjoy water-based activities in calm and shallow aquatic environments. The competencies focus on water safety knowledge, rescue skills, survival sequences and the ability to swim a continuous distance of 50 metres.
- Schools are funded through the Student Resource Package (SRP) to deliver the Victorian Curriculum, including swimming and water safety which is part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum. Funding provided for swimming and water safety education must be used to deliver F-10 swimming and water safety instruction for students, inclusive of costs associated with pool entry and transportation.
- Expenditure will be tracked against the Swimming in Schools CASES 21 code.
- More information is provided in the SRP Targeted Initiatives [Guidance on Swimming in School \(reference 115\)](#).

### **Purpose**

- The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all school swimming and water safety programs at Footscray North Primary School meet the Victorian Curriculum F-10 and provide students with the knowledge and confidence to participate in aquatic activities.

### **Implementation**

- The school will implement a swimming and water safety education program that is compliant with the Health and Physical Education Curriculum as follows:

- The Health and Physical Education curriculum includes four focus areas with specific reference to swimming and water safety which schools are required to teach:

**Fundamental movement skills (FMS)** — Develop foundation movement and skills to enable students to participate in a range of physical activities. For example, floating and moving the body through water.

**Safety (S)** — Practise behaviours and skills to keep themselves and others safe in and around water. For example, sun safety, use of protective equipment and first aid.

**Lifelong physical activities (LPA)** — Understand that swimming can enhance lifelong health-related fitness and wellbeing.

**Challenge and adventure activities (CA)** — Participate in challenging swimming activities in a range of contexts. For example, triathlon, diving, water polo.

- The school will refer to the [Sample Swimming & Water Safety F-10 Progression Model](#) which defines the swimming and water safety competencies expected to be achieved by students by the end of each level in the curriculum.
- As the achievement level of swimming and water safety for students varies across school year levels, swimming programs will allow students to participate at the level appropriate to their individual learning needs.
- The following resources may be utilised by the School
  - [VCAA Swimming and Water Safety Teaching Resources](#): Sample swimming and water safety activities have been developed to support teachers to identify the content descriptors, focus areas and achievement standards where swimming and water safety could be included within a health and physical education teaching and learning program.
  - [Swimming in Schools](#): an overview of swimming and water safety education.
  - [Life Saving Victoria Toolkit](#): a website commissioned by the Department to provide resources, training and professional development for the education sector as well as the aquatic industry to facilitate schools meeting the requirements of the Victorian Curriculum F-10 Health and Physical Education in relation to swimming and water safety education.
  - [FUSE — Physical Activity Resources for Remote Learning](#): ‘dry’ swimming and water safety programs on the Department’s FUSE Remote Learning website, intended to assist in keeping students tracking well with the theoretical aspects of water safety until ‘wet’ classes can resume.
  - [FUSE — Swimming and Water Safety Resources](#): various resources and website links on the Department’s FUSE website.
- The school also may elect to deliver separate, extra-curricular swimming programs that are in addition to the school’s swimming program, such as swimming carnivals, surf camps and training for competitions, which schools can provide on an optional, user-pays basis.
- Please refer also to the school’s *Curriculum Programs Foundation – Year 10 Policy, Excursions (Including Camps) Policy, the Diabetes, Epilepsy, Asthma Management Policies, the Parent Payment and the Financial Help for Families Policies.*

### **Evaluation**

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle or if guidelines change (latest DET update early December 2020).

Reference:

<http://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/swimming-instruction-and-water-safety-education>