



# Gorsemoor Primary School

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Dear Parent(s),

As your child will have no doubt told you, his/her class are going swimming on a **WEDNESDAY MORNING** at Cannock Chase Leisure Centre. The Authority has laid down certain regulations with which we have to comply. Swimming is considered to be an integral part of the school curriculum as is Maths, Language etc. and, as a result, children are expected to take part unless medically unfit. Should your son/daughter be unfit we would be grateful if you would supply us with a medical note stating why he/she is not able to take part in the swimming lesson.

In addition to trunks/costume and towel, depending on the length of your child's hair, it may be necessary for them to wear a swimming hat when they go swimming. Jewellery is not allowed in the swimming pool and, as a result, ear-rings must be taken out before the children enter the water. Perhaps it would be easier for those children who wear ear-rings if they did not wear them on the day they go swimming. Any children suffering from verrucae must wear a slipper if they are going swimming. The school must be informed of any child prone to epileptic fits as when swimming they require additional supervision. Transport is provided by the Authority and the children are picked up from the door and dropped off at the door so are well protected from the weather.

Yours sincerely

Mrs B S Heath

Acting Headteacher



# Staffordshire Schools' Swimming Service

Guidance notes for the use of swimming goggles in Schools (December 2008)

1. Goggles are not necessary within short curriculum swimming lessons (typically 20 to 25 minutes water time) or for single, short races in school galas
2. Goggles are intended for use in long, regular swimming sessions when:
  - a. the eyes would be exposed for long periods to the effects of the chemicals in the water
  - b. the tissue around the eyes does not dry out between training sessions and thus becomes more susceptible to infection
3. For reasons of Safe Practice in School Sport, it is recommended that the use of goggles should not be allowed unless a school is satisfied that a pupil has 'exceptional circumstances' – i.e through involvement in long and frequent training sessions, outside school hours, or if the individual has particularly sensitive eyes, or for some other exceptional circumstance.
4. Wet plastic can be slippery and, frequent, incorrect or unnecessary adjustment or removal of goggles, such as pulling them away from the eyes instead of sliding them over the forehead, could cause an eye injury and parents should be made aware of this risk.
5. In crowded water space there is an increased likelihood of accidental collision that may lead to eye injury by those wearing goggles.
6. When large numbers of pupils complain of eye irritation it is likely to be a chemical imbalance which can be easily rectified.
7. In the rare circumstances where the use of goggles are allowed in a school, as described in (paragraph 3), the adult responsible for the group has the right to require the pupil to remove them for reasons of safe practice if a pupil uses them inappropriately.
8. It is a parents' responsibility to ensure their child is able to safely apply and remove the goggles.
9. Certain aspects of the Water Safety and Personal Survival Award do require a pupil to remove their goggles.
10. A medical certificate is not essential for a school to allow a pupil to use goggles. However, schools do, as a minimum, require a letter from a parent stating the pupil's 'exceptional circumstances' to enable a school to consider a request for their child to use goggles during a school swimming activity.
11. Please note it is important that all parents of children who swim under the care of a school have access to these guidance notes prior to commencing a swimming activity. This will ensure that parents are aware of the current Safe Practice in School Sport guidelines referred to in this document concerning the use of goggles.

