

# The national curriculum in England

Key stages 1 and 2 framework document

## SWIMMING AND WATER SAFETY

*All schools must provide swimming instruction either in key stage 1 or key stage 2. In particular, pupils should be taught to:*

# A closer look?

Swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres

Perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations

## Stats stories and narratives

Use a range of **strokes** effectively [for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke]



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## Action urged to teach children to swim

By Judith Burns  
Education reporter

24 July 2017



Too many 11-year-olds have weak swimming and water safety skills, says report

Almost a third of 11-year-olds in England leave primary school unable to swim, a representative sample of 1,000 parents of Year 6 pupils suggests.

association for Physical Education

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## 250,000 Children Leave Primary School Unable to Swim

24/07/17

Almost a third (31%) of all pupils leaving primary school last week did so without being able to swim and without basic water safety skills, a new report reveals.

Recommendations to ensure all children leave primary school

THE Sun

THE SUN, A NEWS UK COMPANY

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## SWIMMING FOOLS Nearly half of pupils left primary school unable to swim, shocking figures reveal

Ministers have admitted they have failed primary school children by not ensuring they know the potentially life-saving skill which also helps them keep fit

David Wooding  
20 Oct 2018, 22:30 | Updated: 21 Oct 2018, 2:41

## One in three primary school pupils can't swim at 11: Fear millions of young lives are being put at risk because of a lack of lessons

- Almost a third of pupils leave primary school with absolutely no skills in water
- Many would be unable to get themselves out of trouble according to parents
- One in 20 schools don't teach swimming, despite it being on national curriculum

By ANDREW LEVY FOR THE DAILY MAIL

Colin Christmas



**What are the stories and narratives behind the statistics?**



# What we know...

From Research and Surveys....

(...but what do 'we' think ...???)



Parents tend not to be aware of the requirements...

50 % know about " the 25m swim" ...

33% know about a "range of strokes"

78% are unaware of the self rescue requirements !!!

Also, around 50% report that they are not given any information about their child's swimming ability by their school.

Some 80% secondary schools report that they receive no information about swimming ability for year 7 entrants...



# And it seems it is not just parents

**88% schools were unaware of ALL THREE requirements**  
*(Swim England research 2017)*



# What else?

- 1 in 20 schools do not offer swimming (!!!)
- Only 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of schools are providing 'effective lessons which reach all NC standards'
- Around 70% schools access public or local facilities
- Average number of swimming lessons provided is 16.... (average lesson time: 34 minutes) *At least 20 hours is recommended...*







# There's more....

- 51% PARENTS say they want their children to swim in case they get into **difficulties**
- 35% want them to learn an important **life skill**
- 30% want their children to have **increased confidence** in the water
- 23% want them to be able **to have fun** in the water



\*Sport England Active Lives Survey 2018

- **36%** pupils had no swimming lessons in Yr 6
- **28%** left primary school **unable to swim 25m**
- **44%** **couldn't use a range of strokes effectively**
- **66%** **couldn't perform self-rescue.**

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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.



# LET'S BE CLEAR.....

For many children, (around 1 in 5), school swimming lessons WILL be the ONLY fully inclusive opportunity they will get in childhood to have any swimming lessons at all....or in fact even visit a swimming pool...

If you cant swim at age 11...it only gets harder.  
Swimming is optional in Key Stage 3 ...only 17%  
Secondary schools get any info anyway from primaries..



Food for thought: as many as 86% of children from more affluent families in Year 6 *can* swim 25m; *it drops to 42% for children from less affluent families.* (???)

3 columns : ALL

SOME

MOST

**ABLE TO PERFORM / SWIM**  
3 or 4 technically 'correct',  
competition standard  
**STROKES**  
To enable participation in  
competitive swimming events

**ALL PUPILS TO FOLLOW A**  
**NATIONAL**  
**SCHEME OF WORK**  
With pre prepared  
**Lesson Plans**

**ALL PUPILS TO BE TAUGHT BY**  
**Level Two Qualified**  
**Swimming Teachers**  
  
Ex-club swimmers with an impressive  
record of competitive success

**ALL PUPILS TO BE TAUGHT BY**  
**Level Two Qualified**  
**Swimming Teachers**  
  
With appropriate experience and  
knowledge of KS 1+2 Curriculum PE

**ABLE TO ACHIEVE**  
attractive  
**Badges and Certificates** as  
incentives/rewards,  
and records of attainment

**ABLE TO**  
**SWIM AT LEAST 25 METRES**  
continuously, with some part of the  
swim in deep water,  
using any chosen stroke or mixture of  
strokes, competently, confidently,  
proficiently, and without undue stress.

**ABLE TO**  
Use a **RANGE** of recognised swimming  
**STROKES** so that they can make  
choices about the strokes they use to  
achieve different outcomes and be  
certain of success".

**ABLE TO**  
**MEET AND EXCEED**  
**ALL CURRICULUM STANDARDS BY**  
**YEAR 6**

3 columns : ALL

SOME

MOST

**ABLE TO**  
**RESCUE THEMSELVES**  
In the event of accidental and  
unintentional submersion in deep  
water  
**In their local swimming pool**

**ABLE TO**  
**RESCUE THEMSELVES**  
In the event of accidental and  
unintentional submersion in deep  
water  
**In a local river, lake, canal etc..**

**ABLE TO**  
**RESCUE THEMSELVES**  
In the event of accidental and  
unintentional submersion in deep  
water  
**At a coastal location; beach,  
harbour etc...**

**ABLE TO DEVELOP AS**  
**ACTIVE, CONFIDENT, MOTIVATED,**  
**IMAGINATIVE, CREATIVE,**  
**INDEPENDENT, RESILIENT,**  
**REFLECTIVE and SUCCESSFUL**  
**LEARNERS**  
who **OBVIOUSLY** enjoy learning to  
swim and being able to swim.

**ABLE TO**  
**RESCUE A WEAK OR**  
**DROWNING SWIMMER**  
  
**Or someone in difficulty in the water.**

**ABLE TO**  
**PERFORM PERSONAL**  
**SURVIVAL SKILLS**  
  
Appropriate to off-shore conditions  
with the swimmer(s) in the water with  
no immediate rescue likely.

**What would your priorities be for your pupils?**



# IS IT TIME TO CHANGE THE CONVERSATION?