

SWIMMING POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Tecoma Primary School.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Tecoma Primary School's swimming and water safety programs align with the requirements of the Victorian Curriculum 2.0 and provide students with the knowledge, confidence and practical skills required to participate safely in aquatic environments.

Swimming and water safety education supports students to develop aquatic confidence, understand personal safety in and around water, and build lifelong skills for safe participation in aquatic activities.

The aims of the swimming and water safety program are to:

- develop students' water confidence and understanding of water safety
- support students to work towards achievement of the Victorian Water Safety Certificate, or equivalent competencies, by the end of Year 6
- develop students' swimming ability, personal survival skills and safe behaviours in and around water
- provide opportunities for students to extend their swimming abilities through school and interschool sporting pathways where appropriate

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- all students participating in Tecoma Primary School swimming and water safety programs
- parents, carers, staff and volunteers involved in the program
- external swimming instructors and aquatic centre staff involved in the delivery of the program
- all school-organised swimming and water safety activities conducted at approved aquatic venues

POLICY

- The Physical Education teacher, or another designated staff member, will coordinate the planning and implementation of the swimming and water safety program.
- Student participation in the swimming and water safety program will be encouraged through school communication channels, including Compass, newsletters and classroom communication where appropriate.
- The swimming and water safety program may include swimming instruction, aquatic confidence activities, water safety education and personal survival skills appropriate to student age and ability.
- The structure, duration and number of swimming sessions may vary depending on venue availability, staffing, curriculum requirements, transport arrangements and school priorities.

- The cost of the swimming instruction program is generally borne by parents and carers unless otherwise subsidised or funded.
- Where Department of Education swimming funding is available, Tecoma Primary School will utilise this funding to support the delivery of swimming and water safety education aligned with the Victorian Curriculum 2.0.
- Students in Years 5 and 6 may participate in an additional water safety component where appropriate. This component may contribute to student reporting in Health and Physical Education.
- Swimming instruction will be provided by suitably qualified instructors from the aquatic centre or approved swimming provider. Instructors must hold appropriate qualifications, current CPR accreditation and a valid Working with Children Check.
- Tecoma Primary School will select aquatic venues that provide appropriate facilities, qualified staff and programs that support student learning and safety requirements.
- Only buses fitted with seatbelts will be used to transport students to and from the swimming venue.
- Tecoma Primary School staff will actively supervise students throughout the swimming program, including during arrival, changing times, movement between areas, lessons, toileting, departure and transport.
- Supervision arrangements during changing times will prioritise student safety, privacy, dignity and wellbeing, while remaining practical and appropriate within the staffing profile and facilities available at the venue.
- Where possible, the school will provide supervision arrangements that support the needs of all students during changing times. Supervision arrangements may include a combination of school staff, approved parent or carer volunteers, aquatic centre procedures and staggered changing arrangements where appropriate.
- Due to staffing structures and operational requirements, the school cannot guarantee the allocation of both male and female staff members to every swimming group or changing area. Appropriate and reasonable Tecoma staff supervision arrangements will be implemented to always ensure student safety and wellbeing.
- Parents and carers who hold a current Working with Children Check and have signed the Tecoma Primary School Child Safety Code of Conduct may be invited to assist with younger students where appropriate.
- Students may be encouraged to wear bathers underneath their school uniform to reduce changing time and support student privacy where practical.
- Students will be reminded of expected behaviours at the aquatic venue, including respectful use of changerooms, privacy expectations, safe movement around the pool environment and following staff and instructor directions.
- The use of personal mobile phones, smart devices, cameras or recording devices in changerooms is prohibited.

• Any concerns relating to student safety, privacy, medical needs, supervision or behaviour will be managed in accordance with Department of Education requirements and relevant Tecoma Primary School policies.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Department of Education – Swimming Instruction and Water Safety Education
- Department of Education – Excursions
- Department of Education – Supervision of Students
- Victorian Curriculum 2.0 – Health and Physical Education
- Victorian Water Safety Certificate information
- Tecoma Primary School Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- Tecoma Primary School Volunteers Policy
- Tecoma Primary School Working with Children Check Policy
- Tecoma Primary School Yard Duty and Supervision Policy
- Tecoma Primary School Excursions Policy

REVIEW CYCLE

Policy last reviewed	16th June 2026
Consultation	Katrina Ellis, Lisa Hoskins-Faul, Chelsey Robins, Lisa dell, Emily McKay
Approved by	Principal - Katrina Ellis School Council President - Lisa Dell
Next scheduled review date	June 2030