



Public Health
Upper Ground Floor,
Stopford House,
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18th May 2021

Dear Parents

All Stockport primary schools offer an opportunity to learn to swim to all their pupils - normally in Key stage 2 (Year 3 to Year 6)

School swimming has been disrupted by the response to COVID-19, but swimming pools have been open again for school swimming since March 2021. As the risk from coronavirus has continued to fall, I would now like to encourage all parents to give permission for their children to swim - when this opportunity is offered.

School swimming is a requirement within the national curriculum and provides:

- An important form of physical activity that's great for your physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Training on water safety - so that children learn to stay safe in and around water
- Fun!

We have made sure that school swimming is safe for all children - and there is no more risk from COVID-19 when swimming than being in a classroom. All leisure centres that offer school swimming have completed a full risk assessment that includes the pool itself and the changing rooms. Similarly, schools have worked with transport providers to ensure that children can be transported safely to and from the pool. Swimming, and the associated transport, takes place in the same class bubbles as other learning to minimise risk.

By attending swimming lessons with the rest of their class, children learn to:

- Be safe in and around water
- Swim at least 25 metres
- Use a range of different swimming strokes

More information about school swimming is available at <https://www.swimming.org/schools/>

Leisure centres in Stockport have re-opened for public swimming too, and I'd invite you to take your children swimming again, especially if this is something you've been avoiding over the last year. Due to capacity limits, you will need to book in advance, either online at <https://www.lifeleisure.net/> or in person at your leisure centre.

If you have any questions about swimming as part of your child's learning, please speak to your school about the specific arrangements they have in place.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Connolly".

Jennifer Connolly
Director of Public Health