

Swimming and Water Safety Policy

(Ratified by School Council: August 2025)

PURPOSE:

The swimming and Water Safety program aims to provide all students with the opportunity to learn basic survival swimming skills and to gain an awareness of water safety issues, in and around water. The program should provide students with the knowledge and confidence to participate in aquatic activities in all environments including school related tasks and those outside of school.

GUIDELINES:

Swimming Program:

- The swimming program must follow Department of Education (DE) guidelines as set out on the **School Policy Advisory Library "Swimming Instruction and Water Safety Education Policy"** Source: <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/swimming-instruction-and-water-safety-education/policy>
- Programs should include a sequence involving: swimming; water safety; survival techniques; rescue and emergency procedures.
- Glen Waverley Primary School will endeavour to conduct swimming lessons in venues without public attendance
- The swimming program will be a compulsory part of the school curriculum and is an integral part of the Physical Education program.
- Parental permission is required for attendance.
- Upon completion of the swimming component of the course, students shall receive a certificate from the swim school.
- Prep to Year 6 students will be involved in programs appropriate to their ability level.
- A completed Medical and Permission form must be obtained before students can be included in the swimming program.
- Students may seek exemption from the program through proof of current enrolment in a certified swimming program or parental choice. These students will then participate in the water safety lessons conducted on the school premises.

Non-Swimmers Program

- For the duration of the swimming program, the children who do not attend swimming lessons will complete the GWPS non-swimmer's program.
- Evaluation will be undertaken after each program and staff shall review and monitor the effectiveness of the swimming program.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Personnel

- A teacher employed by the Department of Education (DE) and being a staff member of Glen Waverley Primary School must;
 - be in attendance
 - have overall responsibility for the activity and legal responsibility for emergency procedures.
- Other supervising staff must be approved by the Principal. These may include parents/guardians, education support class officers, instructors or employees of swimming pools.
- When arranging for supervision of swimming or water activities schools must take into account the age and experience of the students as well as the venue and experience of staff in accordance with DE expectations.

Qualifications

All swimming programs

All supervising staff (directly involved in delivering water-based sessions) must be capable and have the knowledge and skills:

- to teach swimming and water safety
- for emergency rescue and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), such as Level 2 First Aid

Note: Appropriate levels of competence are the rescue and CPR requirements specified in the certificates for:

- AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety
- Life Saving Victoria
- Surf Life Saving Victoria Resuscitation.

At a swimming pool or a natural water shallow and confined venue

All adults must hold an AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety Certificate and, where possible, a second staff member should hold the same certificate. The adults can be employees of an external organisation such as swimming centre.

Glen Waverley Primary School staff are not expected to deliver water-based lessons as swimming instructors are hired.

At an open deep-water venue

All adults must hold an AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety Certificate and at least one adult member must hold a current:

- Patrol Bronze Medallion of the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia
- Community Surf Lifesaving Certificate of Life Saving Victoria.

The above is a DE requirement however the Glen Waverley Primary School Council does not endorse the students partaking Open Deep-Water activities.

At a surf beach

All staff must hold an AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety Certificate, and at least one staff member must hold one of the following, a current:

- Patrol Bronze Medallion of the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia
- Community Surf Lifesaving Certificate of Life Saving Victoria.

The above is a DE requirement, however the Glen Waverley Primary School Council does not endorse the students partaking in surf beach activities.

POLICY EVALUATION:

Evaluation will be conducted every two years by the Policy Review (Education) Sub Committee of the School Council.

DUE DATE FOR REVIEW:

Due for review in July 2027.