



Southfields Primary School

Safeguarding Guidance for Swimming Changing Areas

Date agreed: March 2025

Review Date: March 2027

This guidance, having been presented to, and agreed upon by the whole staff and Governors, will be distributed to:

- All teaching staff
- School governors

A copy of the guidance will also be available in:

- The Staffroom
- The Head's office
- School web site

This will ensure that the guidance is readily available to visiting teachers, support staff and parents.

Southfields Primary is totally committed to social justice and improving life chances for potentially vulnerable children. It is dedicated to sharing its work and findings beyond the school to improve outcomes for as many children as it can reach and has a particular specialism in Speech and Language development.

Information in accordance with guidance from Swim England and Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) with NSPCC.

Children are to be separated, boys and girls in different changing rooms when at the pool, they go into the changing rooms in uniform, leaving shoes and socks neatly outside the door. Uniform is left neatly in the changing room along with towels and children come onto poolside in their appropriate swimming attire. This is then reversed when changing after their swimming session. If any safeguarding issues arise from a swimming session i.e. noticing unusual bumps/bruises please report in the usual way using the 'My Concern' website, following school policy.

Supervision in the changing room

It is important that staff balance the need for supervision with the rights of the children to privacy. Supervision may be required when:

- Children are too young to change themselves.
- The group has children with additional needs who require assistance with changing.
- There are concerns about behaviours.
- Where possible give advice/guidance from the doorway where you are still visible by another adult in the session.

Who should supervise?

If children require supervision, be mindful that this task provides access to children in circumstances of increased vulnerability. When providing supervision consider the following:

- Numbers – having more than 1 supervising where possible
- Gender – considered good practice that supervising adults are to be of the same gender as the children while changing.
- Timings – be clear to children how long you are expecting them to be in the changing room.
- Safe practices for adults involved such as; DBS checks, references, job description/role so they are clear of boundaries and code of conduct with contract of employment.
- Ensure you have enough adults to run the session so that you do not rely on volunteers/parent helpers/students to support with the changing of children. Use them on poolside instead to supervise children who are already changed into school uniform and waiting for their session/to return to class.
- Ideal number for poolside are teacher +2 additional adults.

Photography

- Do not take pictures of children in swimwear on poolside or entering/exiting the pool.
- Action shots to be taken where possible providing swimwear is not dislodged or torn. Try to focus on the activity rather than the child.
- Take group shots rather than individual pictures.
- Ensure you have permission to share on Dojo and only share appropriate photos.
- Filming sessions is discouraged.

Key to remember;

- Children should not have any mobile devices with them at the pool
- Adults who require mobile devices at the pool (to be used in case of emergencies, usually lead teacher only), should have these on poolside at all times rather than on them in person, particularly if required to supervise inside the changing rooms.