

# SWIMMING AT CRANFORD PARK ACADEMY

At Cranford Park we are passionate about children learning to swim and we have made this a key strategic focus. In 2025 we made the decision to annually invest in hiring our own pop up pool and swim teacher to have on site through the whole of the Summer Term to significantly increase the number of children we could offer lessons to and ultimately the number of children who could swim confidently. Lessons happen every day from 8:45am -3pm across Y3-6. We recognised that for lots of our children our lessons are their first experience of being in and around water and feel this is best done at an early stage of their lives.



Therefore from Year 3 the children have swim lessons in intensive blocks where they swim daily. We have found that this has benefited the children greatly by giving them significantly increased opportunities to spend time in the water, in turn allowing more time to develop confidence, competence and knowledge of water safety. They also feel more confident using a pool on the school site with a regular instructor.

Lessons are taught to the national curriculum guidelines of swimming lessons and we have a qualified swim teacher and lifeguard. The children are assessed and put into ability groups in the first session by the swimming teacher. This helps with confidence for the many beginner swimmers whilst ensuring those with some prior experience can be further challenged. Children with additional needs have 1:1 or 2:1 support adults in the pool with them to ensure their safety and build their confidence.



We also believe that by introducing the children to swimming earlier we will get whole families enthusiastic about and seeing the benefits of swimming. In this way, we hope children will be keen to encourage their parents to take them swimming regularly building on the skills they have learnt during lessons in school. We will then give children in Year 6 who are not yet confident swimmers a further opportunity for lessons to enable as high a number as possible to pass the national standard and to feel safe and confident in the water.

All children are required to wear either a one-piece swimming costume (girls) or swimming trunks (boys). They must also have a swimming hat (essential) and bring their own towel. All jewellery must be removed prior to the swimming lessons. If a pupil is well enough for school, but not well enough to swim, a letter from their parent/guardian is required

