

Swimming – your queries answered

This document is supplement to MI Sheet 228/11 [Swimming - County Requirements for Schools](#) and covers:

- **The Safe Supervision of Swimming Course**
 - Do teachers with QTS need to attend?
 - Do all TA's who go have to do the course?
 - What is the role of the Visit Leader?
- **The County Swimming Assistant Certificate – supporting the learning poolside**
 - When did this come in?
 - Do I have to take the Award if I am only working in the shallow end and have done so for years?
 - Can I teach pupils in the water if I have not attended this course?
 - Can we organise a cluster training event to reduce costs if we, and other local schools, have multiple staff to get qualified?
 - **Exemptions**

The Safe Supervision of Swimming Course (Activity Ref ECSE6)

Designed for Teaching Assistants who will be covering curriculum swimming lessons as the visit leader (acting instead of a Teacher with QTS). This has increased due to head teachers needing to create PPA time.

- **Do teachers with QTS need to attend?**
No, but they are very welcome and would benefit from the course.
- **Do all TA's who go have to do the course?**
No, only those who will act as 'Visit Leader'. Remember that it is good to ensure succession planning and cover in case a single person is not available who has done the course (due to illness, absence or leaving the school).
- **What is the role of the Visit Leader?**
The visit leader must effectively discharge the schools Duty of Care throughout the visit (including travel, changing, pool-time and back). They must not teach or take specific responsibility for a single group whilst at the pool. The reason for this is to ensure that they are able to monitor the whole group, headcount, ensure effective supervision by others from their party etc.

The County Swimming Assistant Certificate – supporting the learning poolside (Activity Ref ECSG1)

This is a county requirement (effective from January 2012) taking precedent over any national guidance or that of the Amateur Swimming Association. It's purpose is to support those teachers (QTS) and TA's who will be taking responsibility for teaching a small group of pupils at

the pool. This is to improve the quality of teaching and learning – the outcome – better achievement and progress for pupils.

- **When did this come in?**

We informed schools of this requirement at the Autumn term of 2009, training courses etc for staff were scheduled throughout 2010, 2011.

- **Do I have to take the Award if I am only working in the shallow end and have done so for years?**

Yes. The award itself is specific in that it allows you to teach no more than 10 pupils of a similar ability in water no more than 1.0m deep. All teachers, TA's should work within their capabilities and only if they feel confident and competent to deliver the teaching after the course.

- **Can I teach pupils in the water if I have not attended this course?**
No

- **Can we organise a cluster training event to reduce costs if we, and other local schools, have multiple staff to get qualified?**

Yes. Contact Danielle Youngs in the first instance to arrange timings and discuss costs.
Telephone: 01603 303304 danielle.youngs@norfolk.gov.uk

Exemptions:

- Staff are only exempt if they have done a previous course with or through any of the national governing bodies involved in swimming. These are:
 - Amateur Swimming Association (Level 1 or Level 2)
 - Institute of Swimming Teachers Association (Level 1 or Level 2)
 - Others – please check with us by contacting 01603 303304
- Please remember that this course is designed to help support the quality of teaching and learning poolside. Full resources (based on CD – including resource cards, teaching ideas, animations, video clips, assessment sheets and full course handout) and instruction is given so that candidates can then be deployed to work with a group of pupils of similar ability, in groups not exceeding 10, in water no more than 1.0m deep.