



KAL School Swimming FAQs – April 2021

KAL have provided the following frequently asked questions (FAQs) ahead of School Swimming re-starting to try to provide Kirklees primary schools with some further information about the new, COVID-secure approach being taken:

National guidance on the return of School Swimming – should we resume?

Swim England Statement:

School swimming lessons can resume for all pupils who have returned to face to face learning from 8 March. Schools without their own pool can travel to use available external facilities for these lessons in line with government guidance.

Department of Education guidance states that schools should “Teach an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects” therefore we hope to see schools recognising the importance of learning how to swim and about water safety for their pupils.

Why haven't we resumed the School swimming in line with the date set by Swim England?

KAL reopened facilities and products in a COVID secure, phased approach, since August 2020 however the 3rd national lockdown required all facilities to close. KAL facilities are planned to re-open from April 12th 2021.

KAL and Kirklees Council will continue to review the local impact and react accordingly. As an example Swim England produced school swimming guidance in August 2020 and encouraged school swimming to commence from September 2020. KAL and KC reviewed the guidance and agreed to delay the start of school swimming until schools had had the chance to settle in.

KAL work in partnership with Swim England and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to revise the guidance and implement any changes required.

Why are KAL and Kirklees planning to re-start the service this academic year?

KAL are providing Kirklees Schools which were previously scheduled to attend School Swimming term 2 (Feb – July 2021) the opportunity to return to School Swimming. KAL recognise that many pupils have missed a full year of school swimming and would like to offer the opportunity to return to schools as soon as possible.

It is at the discretion of the school if they return to the School Swimming Programme this term.



Unfortunately, for many pupils across Kirklees attending school swimming is the only opportunity to learn how to swim with 23% of pupils across the UK leaving school unable to swim.

Swim England Statement:

The Department for Education understands the importance of learning to swim – it is the only physical activity which can save your life.

All schools must provide swimming lessons in Key Stage 1 or 2. Swimming is the only statutory sport within the Physical Education (PE) programme of study – and in particular, pupils should be taught to:

- Perform safe self-rescue in different water based situations.
- Swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of AT LEAST 25 metres.
- Use a range of strokes effectively, for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke.

What if our School chooses not to return to school swimming this academic year?

KAL are providing the option to schools who wish to return from the proposed re-start dates. If your school is not planning to return until academic year 2021/22 KAL will confirm your programme in May.

Finance – as the service will resume payments will be required to ensure the service can continue to be provided in the future.

We were scheduled in School Swimming Term 1, when will our school swimming resume?

Term 1 School Swimming dates are September - February, unfortunately there are insufficient pools available to allow for all schools to return during term 2.

If any sessions become available KAL will contact schools which usually attend the specific pool to discuss any options to return.

Term 1 Schools will receive the programme for September 2021 in May.

What additional measures have been put in place for Transport?

KAL have liaised with West Yorkshire Combined authority and reviewed the guidance, we have provided the expectations and a risk assessment from each of the transport providers, these documents are available to schools on the Kirklees Business Solutions Page <https://kirkleesbusinesssolutions.uk/Services/4949>

Transport Guidance. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-transport-guidance-for-operators/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-transport-guidance-for-operators>



ONE TEAM



EXCELLENCE



PASSION

How will this be monitored?

West Yorkshire Combined Authority (the transport partner for school swimming) employs Contract Compliance Officers to monitor the services they provide. If schools have any concerns to raise, please direct them to KAL schoolswimming.admin@kal.org.uk.

Are we insured to travel to school swimming?

Yes, Kirklees Council have confirmed that schools are covered for the transport and delivery of school swimming.

When will we know our timetable?

KAL have proposed a phased return to the service delivery, KAL will contact each school to discuss the timings, pupil numbers and any specific arrangements which may need to be considered.

Which pupils should attend?

Pupil attendance will be the decision of the school as we acknowledge that schools have varying year groups attending. KAL only request that the pupils remain the same for the term and the pupil numbers are agreed on confirmation as transport and staff rations will be determined at this point.

KAL pupil numbers for school swimming are provided by the census, if there is a requirement for the school to increase the target year group due to staffing / bubble arrangements due to the measures required relating to COVID please contact KAL and we will be happy to find a solution.

Are the roles and responsibilities clearly defined for KAL and Schools?

KAL have updated the School Swim Policy which includes the roles and responsibilities for KAL, Schools and the adult in charge (teacher attending the pool sessions)

The latest version of the Swim Policy has been uploaded to the Kirklees Business Solutions page, <https://kirkleesbusinessolutions.uk/Services/4949>. KAL have recently reviewed this document so we do request this is viewed prior to the re-start of the service.

What is expected of the Adult in Charge?



KAL provide a School Swimming Policy which outlines the role for the Adult in Charge. This is available on the KC business solutions website. We would also recommend that the adult in charge views the ilearn provided by swim England and the virtual tour of the facility provided to each school.

KAL have requested additional support regarding the following:

- Ensure pupils wash / sanitise hands before they travel on the bus
- Ensure pupils sanitise on entering a pool facility
- Support KAL when in the changing areas – due to the increased sanitisation required and new programme timings we may require additional support with waiting areas and change over timings.

<https://kirkleesbusinesssolutions.uk/Services/4949>

Do we need to arrive swim ready? Are pupils expected to wear swim costumes all day at school?

KAL would prefer for pupils to arrive swim ready however we acknowledge this may not always be possible, KAL will discuss all option when confirming the programme arrangements.

KAL have successfully re-opened the swimming provision across Kirklees for public, learn to swim and fitness products over the last few months. KAL have worked within the Swim England guidance and have also worked with other leisure providers across the country to ensure provide a COVID-secure environment.

A key principle of this is to reduce the time spent in the changing areas.

Swim England have advised that swimmers should arrive swim ready to activities to reduce the time in changing areas.

Pre-session arrival - When a school group arrives swim ready there may not be a need to use the changing areas until after the swim. Therefore, the prior school group can be in the changing area when the 2nd school group arrive.

Post session – School groups will be allocated a changing area to change post swim. This area will have been sanitised by KAL staff between each school group.

If the swimmers do not arrive swim ready the group may need to wait for the previous school to change and leave and the changing rooms to be sanitised before they can access the pool. This would require for the pupils to be held in an area during the change over time, a reduction in the time spent in the pool and increased time away from school.

Pool Programmes - will we be sharing the pool with public still?



Swim England guidance states that shared pool use is recommended, however, KAL have removed any shared pool use for this current academic year.

Programme Delivery Detail

KAL have been piloting and 'intensive' delivery programme across various schools in Kirklees during the last academic year.

Previous programme: School Swimming was provided over a 39 week period for 25 – 35 minutes per week for each pupil.

Revised programme: School swimming to be delivered for 19 weeks 50 – 60 mins per week

KAL have implemented a scheme of work to deliver an intensive school swimming programme to achieve the National Curriculum outcomes over a shorter period with increased delivery time per week.

KAL have piloted this model with various Kirklees schools during the last academic year with the following outcomes:

- Improvement Statistics
- Lesson quality / time to gain confidence and skills
- Provides the opportunity to deliver academic curriculum activities during the swimming lesson, such as math and geography.
- School year groups only being out of school for part of the year
- The current 30 mins programmed in the pool can often be reduced to 20 mins water time due to transport and travel issues resulting in a poor experience for the pupils.
- Reduction in chemicals required in pool with fewer swimmers in the water in one day.

Pre-COVID-19 KAL had proposed to implement this model as part of the 2 year improvement plan for school swimming. The COVID-19 related closure has provided the opportunity to implement the intensive programme which also allows for all Kirklees Primary Schools to attend swimming this academic year.

What is the School Swim charter?

KAL have registered all Kirklees Primary Schools with the Swim England School Swim Charter. This provides Schools with additional resources and support guides around swimming and water safety.

Swim England will be sending each school an email with log in details to access the online resources and rewards.

<https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/school-swimming-water-safety-charter/>

Can we change our session?



KAL would be happy to discuss any options, however it is dependent on staffing, pool programme and transport availability.

If we don't attend this year can we have 2 sessions next year?

KAL are committed to work in partnership with all schools, it may not be possible be possible for KAL to re-programme all schools into the delivery for September 2021, due to pool, staffing and transport availability. However, we will review any opportunity for catch up sessions in the September 2021 programme.

When will we receive the refund for last year?

Kirklees finance are processing the refunds to schools. A refund of 40% will be received to all schools which purchased the service for the previous academic year.

Hopefully you have found these FAQs to be useful. If you have any further questions regarding school swimming please email: schoolswimming.admin@kal.org.uk