



BOARDING GUIDELINES FOR AQUATIC ACTIVITIES (Included in the Boarding Handbook)

Boarding duty staff who take an aquatic activity will ensure that:

1. All Boarding students going on the activity have signed approval from their parents to allow participation in such activities.
2. Boarding staff are aware of the swimming capabilities and medical details of all Boarding students going on the activity, based upon advice supplied by parents.
3. Boarding staff have checked that swimming and surfing conditions are safe (low risk rating in relation to rips, hidden hazards, dangerous surf) prior to any Boarding students entering the water. Boarding students may swim or surf at a variety of beaches (including Smiths, Redgate, Meelup, Busselton, Peppermint Grove, Dalyellup, Bunbury Back Beach, BP Beach), rivers (Collie, Blackwood) or dams (Wellington).
4. A rescue aid is available.
5. An emergency signal is available (whistle).
6. A mobile phone is present.
7. A motor vehicle is available.
8. An adult is present with a current resuscitation qualification and/or Surf Rescue Certificate. Where a staff member does not have a Surf Rescue Certificate, but has a resuscitation qualification, the group will only swim between the flags at a beach where lifeguards are on duty and the lifeguard(s) on duty will be notified. Boarders will only use surfboards when supervised by a staff member with a current Surf Rescue Certificate.
9. Clear guidelines are given to the Boarding students prior to them entering the water (these include the specified swimming area, the use of a "buddy" system, the explanation of emergency hand and whistle signals, the designated assembly area, and any other special considerations necessary).
10. The swimming area for surfers with boards is separated from the area for swimmers.
11. The recommended swimming supervisor to Boarding students swimming ratio is adhered to, as per the School's Aquatic Policy, namely:
 - a. swimming at a patrolled beach (on weekends) - 1:16.
 - b. in controlled water (swimming pools, sheltered water) - 1:12.
 - c. in flowing water which is not patrolled (flowing river, surf); 1:8.
12. When larger groups are taken to the pool, or beach, supervising duties are split to allow staff directly responsible for water activities to supervise those in the water, in accordance with the above ratios.
13. Entering the aquatic environment always carries an element of risk (eg entering rips, the presence of sharks). While the School cannot remove all risk from students swimming in the ocean, it does employ a range of strategies to minimize this risk. For example, social media is playing a key role in providing the public with news concerning shark sightings. We have a subscription to Surf Life Saving WA's twitter feed and they, in consultation with the Western Australian Fisheries Department, give regular updates on suspected shark sightings and activity. The School monitors this regularly and we are able to act on this advice. Boarding students will not knowingly enter the water if there are shark sightings reported on these websites in the proposed swimming area, or if the Boarding staff member considers the swimming venue to be unsafe for swimming due to any other special conditions or considerations.



PARENTAL PERMISSION FOR A BOARDING STUDENT TO ATTEND AQUATIC ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY BOARDING STAFF (To be renewed annually)

Having studied the "Boarding Guidelines for Aquatic Activities" provided to me by the School, I agree to allow my son/daughter:

Name: _____

- to swim during any aquatic activity organised by Boarding Yes/No
• to swim during any pool, river or dam activity organised by Boarding. Yes/No
• to swim during any early morning beach based aquatic activity organised by Boarding. Yes/No
• to swim during any beach based aquatic activity, other than in the early morning, organised by Boarding. Yes/No
(Please circle above as appropriate)

In so doing (and provided the earlier Guidelines for Aquatic are followed), I release and agree to indemnify and keep indemnified the School, its agents and employees from and against all liability for loss, injury or damage to person or property (including death) and also all claims, demands, actions, costs (including legal costs) and expenses associated with, arising out of or caused by my child's involvement with such activity, regardless of the cause of such loss, injury or damage and including when caused by the negligence of the School, its agents or employees.

Swimming Ability:

My son or daughter has achieved Education Department Swimming and Water Safety Continuum Stage Number: _____ Date Achieved: _____

The stages are; 1. Beginner, 2. Water Discovery, 3. Preliminary, 4. Water Awareness, 5. Water Sense, 6. Junior, 7. Intermediate, 8. Water Wise, 9. Senior, 10. Junior Swim & Survive, 11. Swim & Survive, 12. Senior Swim & Survive.

Please indicate if your son or daughter has a current swimming rescue award eg. Bronze Medallion:

Name of Rescue Award: _____ Date Achieved: _____

My son/daughter's swimming ability can be classified according to the table below (please tick the two appropriate boxes):

Table with 4 columns: Water Type, Strong, Average, Weak. Rows: Still or slow moving water (eg. pool, sheltered beach); Fast moving or turbulent water (eg. flowing river, surf beach)

NB. Strong: could swim about 200 metres or more.
Average: could swim about 100 metres.
Weak: could swim 50 metres or less.

Mother's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Father's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please can both parents sign the form, unless the student does not reside with both parents, in which case the parent with guardianship responsibility should sign the form.