

Hanwell Fields Community School Swimming

At Hanwell Fields we place great emphasis on getting children to be able to swim well enough to get themselves out of danger if they are in water. The target in the National Curriculum is for all children to swim 25m by the end of year 6. Our approach to swimming is to get all children to swim with the school each year from year 1 through to year 6. This ensures that every child has experience of getting in the pool as early as possible, letting them get used to getting their face wet and to experience a pool in a safe and enjoyable way from a young age. Some children are lucky enough to have swimming lessons or to swim for a club but many have no exposure to swimming over and above swimming at school. To take the wide range of abilities into account, children are streamed so that they have the opportunity to progress in each lesson whether that is in terms of confidence in the water or more technical work on their strokes.

We travel to the pool by school minibus with 3 level 1 qualified swimming teachers. Spice Ball supply 2 qualified level 2 teachers and life guards so we are in the correct ratios for the OCC swimming guidelines. All children wear swim hats but goggles are only allowed with a parent's letter. There is clear progression for swimming with certificates awarded as the children increase their confidence and ability. These are awarded in Friday Celebration assemblies.

Finally there is also the annual swimming gala run by the NOSSP (North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership) for schools in Banbury Academy catchment. This year the girls team came 3rd equal and the boys team 2nd meaning they qualified for the North Oxfordshire Finals. They were runners up here as well and have qualified for the County Finals.