

Swimming Lessons for Pupils with Physical Difficulties

Bradford District Council has 10 swimming pools across Bradford with a range of facilities.

	Accessible changing room with height adjustable changing bed and hoist	Hoist Access	Disabled Parking	Ramp or Lift Access
The Leisure Centre (Keighley) 01535 681763	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bingley Pool 01274 560621	-	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bowling Pool 01274 727577	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Eccleshill Pool 01274 612329	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ilkley Pool 01943 600453	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Manningham SC 01274 494927	-	-	Yes	Yes
Queensbury Pool 01274 883978	-	-	Yes	-
Rhodesway Pool 01274 495481	-	-	Yes	Yes
Richard Dunn SC 10274 307822	-	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shipley Pool 01274 437162	-	Yes	-	Yes

When planning for a group to access swimming, it is important to **anticipate** the access requirements of any pupil with a physical difficulty and plan accordingly. Schools need to follow the Equality Act (2010) and make **reasonable adjustments** to ensure a pupil is not put at a **substantial disadvantage** to other pupils due to their physical disability.

Often planning needs to take place many months in advance of the swimming sessions. For example in Year 4 if pupils are due to swim in Year 5. The staff member who organises and books the swimming will need to be informed about any physical or medical needs of the group and their implications before the time of booking.

Staffing frequently needs careful consideration, particularly if the pupil's regular support is unwilling or unable to support swimming. If this is the case, it is the responsibility of the school to provide a member of staff who will support the pupil in the water. This should be a member of staff rather than a parent/ carer. It may be useful for schools to include support for swimming or hydrotherapy in support assistants' job descriptions to ensure this is considered at the time of recruitment. It is important that schools plan for a substitute support in case of staff absence.

Information about the physical needs of the group will need to be included on the initial swimming package application form and further advice regarding the facilities can be sought from the Principle Swimming Development Manager.

Principle Swimming Development Manager

Mr Ben Pollard

Email: ben.pollard@bradford.gov.uk

Tel (01274) 438792

Fax (01274) 551946

Suitable transport will need to be considered, particularly for pupils who use wheelchairs. This can be arranged by Bradford Council if needed.

Once a suitable venue has been identified, schools will need to make their own risk assessment for individual pupils with physical difficulties. A pre- visit is essential to check the suitability of the facilities. The following form can be used to help inform planning.

Health and Safety at the Swimming Pool School Risk Assessment

Name of pupil:.....

D.O.B.....

School:.....

Diagnosis/ Presenting problem:.....

.....

.....

Are there any difficulties anticipated with:

Transport to and from pool YES/ NO

Changing facilities YES/ NO

Access into / out of pool YES/ NO

When in pool YES/ NO

Transport

<p>What kind of transport will be required?</p> <p>This will need to be planned for and booked in advance. Additional cost implications will need to be considered.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Wheelchair accessible coach/ taxi</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Standard coach</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Route can be walked/ travel in Wheelchair</p>
<p>Will extra staff need to be allocated for the journey?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>
<p>Is the entrance to the swimming pool accessible and is there disabled parking if needed?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>

Changing Facilities

<p>Are the changing facilities suitable for the student?</p> <p>These should be visually checked on each visit before the pupil gets changed.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>
<p>Does the pool have suitable moving and handling equipment in situ? (If hoisting is necessary take own sling)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Grab rails</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Height adjustable changing bed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hoist in changing room</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hoist on poolside</p>

	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate toilet facilities
Does the pupil need assistance with changing? If pupil is bowel incontinent it is the parents/ carer responsibility to provide protective swimwear.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES (allocate staff) <input type="checkbox"/> NO
What position will the student be changed in? Consider whether student may need to arrive earlier than peers due to time taken.	<input type="checkbox"/> Standing unsupported <input type="checkbox"/> Standing holding onto rail <input type="checkbox"/> Sitting in wheelchair or on chair <input type="checkbox"/> Lying on changing bed

Access into/ out of pool

How will the student move to the poolside?	<input type="checkbox"/> Walk unaided <input type="checkbox"/> Walk with supervision <input type="checkbox"/> Walk with assistance <input type="checkbox"/> Pool chair
If the student wears orthotics, can they safely walk or transfer without? Seek further advice from physiotherapist if needed.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
How will the student get into the water?	<input type="checkbox"/> Steps independently <input type="checkbox"/> Steps with adult support <input type="checkbox"/> Sitting position on poolside and received by adult in pool. Consider how the student will get into a seated position. <input type="checkbox"/> Pool hoist received by adult in the pool. Pool staff are responsible for operation of the hoist.
How will the student get out of the water?	<input type="checkbox"/> Steps independently <input type="checkbox"/> Steps with adult support <input type="checkbox"/> Pool hoist received by adult on the poolside. Pool staff are responsible for operation of the hoist.

When in the pool

<p>Does the student need support in the water?</p> <p>It is the school's responsibility to provide support staff to enter the water and to have a substitute in case of absence.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> 1:1 adult handling support. <input type="checkbox"/> 1:2 adult handling support <input type="checkbox"/> 1:1 adult support when out of depth <input type="checkbox"/> 1:1 poolside spotter (e.g. students with epilepsy) <input type="checkbox"/> additional adult support needed in pool for occasional support (e.g. behaviour)
--	---

Other considerations

<p>Strategies to decrease risk of injury to staff</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Staff are familiar working with the student <input type="checkbox"/> Staff work in accordance with moving and handling guidance provided for school toileting and transfer routines when at the pool. If this is not possible, further advice should be sought from the physiotherapist. <input type="checkbox"/> Remove jewellery <input type="checkbox"/> Wear appropriate footwear
<p>Staff changing</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Have identified area to change <input type="checkbox"/> Suggest staff wear towelling dressing gown whilst student is dried and dressed. <input type="checkbox"/> Hand student over to supervising teacher whilst support staff dry and dress
<p>Emergency evacuation plans are not usually required as pool staff are trained in the evacuation of disabled swimmers.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Inform pool manager of the student's disability or medical condition to inform their emergency evacuation plan.

Completed by: Name.....

Signed..... **Date**.....