

Child Admission Policy for Swimmers Under Eight

The Council is committed to provide a safe and pleasant environment in which to swim. This is achieved by putting in place safe operating procedures that take into account the safety of those people using the facilities. A series of Health and Safety risk assessments have been undertaken which take into account operating arrangements and guidance provided by such bodies as the Health & Safety Executive, Royal Society for the Protection of Accidents and the Institute of Sport and Recreation Management.

The guidance provided by the above agencies, recommend that no child under the age of eight (8) years of age should be allowed to enter a swimming pool unaccompanied by a responsible person. **In addition the guidance goes on to recommend that children under the age of four years of age should be supervised on a one to one basis.**

In the best interests of young children the Council has adopted this guidance as policy and as such: -

- a) All children under the age of 8 should be accompanied by a person deemed responsible by the management of the Centre or Pool, who should be aged 16 or over and be a competent swimmer.
- b) **This person may be responsible for up to 2 children between the ages of 4 and 7 or 1 child under 4 years of age.**

In some cases this policy may inconvenience, but the policy adopted has been put in place to protect young children and not to place them in situations that are considered a potential risk to their well-being. We are aware that some young children are strong swimmers, but it would place staff in a difficult situation, if they had to make an assessment for each child on their swimming capability. We have concluded that and there should be no exceptions to the policy above.

At times we may also need to make a decision regarding the age of the accompanying "adult" but at all times staff will endeavour to act in the best interests of the children.

Please accept our apology if your child has been refused entry into the pool and understand that it is being done with the best intentions. If the young person was alone when they arrived at the facilities, staff will ensure that he/she can return home safely.

Jeff Barston

Recreation Performance Manager



