

Active Leeds – Return to School Swimming FAQs

Why are you no longer supplying woggles and armband?

Our governing bodies have recommended a rigid cleaning regime for foam equipment that is shared therefore we are asking schools to provide their own woggles to ensure the lessons are covid secure and to minimise the equipment our staff are coming into contact with. Children who are enrolled in Active Leeds swimming lessons may have already purchased a woggle, you may wish to ask children who already have them to provide their own.

How do we clean the woggles?

We recommend you allocate a woggle to each child and write their initials in permanent marker on the end so they are using the same woggle each week. At the start of each lesson the children will be asked to submerge the woggles for 30 seconds and when the swimming teacher has finished using the woggles towards the end of the lesson they will ask the children to submerge the woggle under the water for a minimum of 30 seconds, a member of the school team can then ask the children to place the woggle in the bag. As the woggles will not be used again until the following week after 72 hours in the unlikely event the virus had been present it is no longer active. Any staff handling the bag should ensure they have used hand sanitiser or washed their hands before and after.

If the woggle has any bodily fluids present they must be wiped clean and then submerged in pool water or cleaned with a solution such as Milton. We will have paper towel and a spray solution available on poolside if required.

Why do we have to come beach ready?

PWTAG recommend cleaning changing rooms between each user group, unfortunately we would not have time to clean between one school getting ready for lessons and the other school exiting the pool and using the changing room.

One of our children usually has one to one support in the water is this still possible?

Yes a member of school staff is still able to support children in the water however this will need to be included in your risk assessment.

How will the teacher entering the water get changed?

Depending upon activities in the pool before your swimming session we should be able to accommodate adults getting changed in a cubicle or private area, please arrange this directly with the centre you swim at.

We have a child attending lessons who is unable to come beach ready due to additional needs can they get changed at site?

We are able to look at allocating a cubicle or private area for any children who are unable to come beach ready please arrange this with the site you swim at.

Why do we have to remove shoes before entering poolside?

We are asking all children to remove shoes before entering poolside and all adult to either remove their shoes or use blue shoes covers to ensure the poolside remains hygienic and is not contaminated by outside dirt.

Where do we buy the woggles from?

You can place your woggle order via Active Leeds, they cost £2 per woggle. You may wish to purchase from another provider however these are very competitively priced. You will collect the woggles from site on your first lesson, please ensure you bring your net bag or woggle container with you.

How do we know who needs armbands?

Asking the children in your class if they use armbands when they go swimming or if they have ever been swimming before is an easy way to find out which children will require armbands, any child who has not been swimming before will require armbands. All swimmers will be assessed on the first lesson using some basic practices so if anyone is unsure our teachers will make recommendations who needs armbands based on their ability.

Where do we purchase armbands?

Many children will already have armbands, we would suggest asking children to bring them from home if possible. Armbands can be purchased relatively cheaply direct from suppliers like these <https://www.jplennard.com/jpl-splash-arm-bands.html> for less than £3.00.

The children are asked to bring their own armbands if they need them, what if they forget?

We would suggest the school keeps a spare pair just in case as unfortunately the child may not be able to swim that week if they would not be safe using just a woggle as the centre's do not have the resource to loan equipment.

We are a walking school how do we arrange to drop the woggles off before the lesson?

Please contact the centre who will be able to explain the site specific process with you

Can children still use the toilet?

We recommend all children use the toilet before leaving school, if a child needs the toilet before or during the lesson please contact a member of staff to find out which toilet to use.

Can children use the showers?

If there is a medical e.g. eczema children may use the showers to wash the chlorinated water off of their skin however they will still need to vacate the changing rooms within 10 minutes of the lesson finishing.

What measures have you put in place to ensure the facility is clean?

Between each school using the pool we will wipe down all touch points and scoop pool water onto the poolside, this may happen whilst your class is getting changed. The changing rooms will be thoroughly sanitised between each school group including the benches and any touch points.

Can we still bring children who aren't getting in the water to the leisure centre with us?

Ideally it would be better if they could remain at school, having extra people on poolside may make it difficult for the swimming teachers to move around poolside and social distance from the children.

The class is not able to attend due to isolating what shall we do?

Please contact Sarah Crossley at the earliest opportunity so the necessary steps can be taken to inform all relevant parties

A child or member of staff has tested positive following the swimming lesson what shall we do?

Please contact the centre as soon as possible and ask to speak to a member of the management team

Will there be other schools on site at the same time as us? If so how will we avoid coming into contact with them?

Yes there may be times when other schools are coming in to the building, however you should never come in to contact as there is a different access/egress to poolside/changing rooms. If a school is late arriving at the pool they will take priority entering the building and the exiting school will be held. We may need to provide an area for the children to be held for a short period of time whilst the driver cleans the bus.

Will we come in to contact with the general public?

Where possible schools have been allocated access/egress to ensure social distancing can be maintained. Centre staff will be on hand to hold the school or public should this be required to allow passing to happen safely. Adults attending with the class must ensure face coverings are worn in all circulation areas unless exempt.

What exactly do children need to bring?

We recommend the children use a reusable shopping style bag containing a towel and underwear and armbands if required. Swim wear must be worn under clothing. The bag will then be used to store shoes, coat and outer clothing whilst swimming.

Why do the school staff have to remain on poolside?

The school staff are responsible for ensuring social distancing from the swimming teachers so you need to ensure you are on poolside and engaged in the lesson. It is also helpful when teachers take an active role in the lessons, this could be supporting behaviour management, encouraging children or taking a small group to work on some basic water confidence practices.

What do we need to complete before returning to swimming?

The Covid-19 Specific Swimming Risk Assessment needs to be complete, emailed to Sarah Crossley and this will be signed off by the Aquatics Team. All members attending swimming (adults & children) will need to watch the 'Welcome Back' video and the Safety checklist completed and emailed back to Sarah prior to attending. Once Risk Assessment confirmed the centre manager will call the school to check for any queries/questions prior to the first visit.