

**TO: Head Teachers Forum**  
**SCHOOL SWIMMING PROGRAMME**

**Date: January 2019**

Middlesbrough Council has co-ordinated the School Swimming Programme for Primary Schools, Academies and Academy Trusts for several years.

This non-statutory function has been carried out by the Integrated Transport Unit which is primarily responsible for Home to School and Adult Social Care Transport provision.

The link between commissioning transport and the provision of co-ordinating and administering the swimming programme was in the past very clear as both services were governed by Middlesbrough Council.

Everyone Active is the supplier of School Swimming. This is now an external provider and not governed by Middlesbrough Council.

From February 2018 – May 2018 a consultation exercise was carried out with 42 Middlesbrough Primary Schools and Academies and 2 Special Schools asking them to agree to a 3 year SLA for procurement, co-ordination and administration of the swimming programme. 12 did not agree. Of those 12 there were 9 Schools and Academies that did not return swimming requests for this current academic year.

Since the start of the 2018/19 Academic Year 2 schools have then removed themselves from the transport and or the swimming programme as a whole.

The administration of the programme is becoming increasingly complex that it is not sustainable for the Integrated Transport Unit to continue to procure transport, manage and administer the swimming programme and still be able to provide an economical service that meets the needs of our Schools and Academies.

What was once the agreed format for the swimming programme i.e. 2 x 2 weeks of swimming, programmed throughout 36 weeks of the academic year no longer fits the needs of our primary schools and academies who are requesting bespoke swimming timetables and procurement of their own transport.

The current programme is devised for the whole of this academic year so any change will take effect from September 2019 onwards.

Discussion are ongoing with Everyone Active to ensure that the co-ordination of the Schools Swimming Programme can continue to be programmed, however, with individual arrangements made by schools, academies or academy trusts that best meet their own individual needs. Within those discussions meeting curriculum standards will be a priority and I have outlined what those

requirements are below. We will work with SLM for handover of our documentation and agree a process for schools to follow.

Once we have this we can both contact schools and inform them of the arrangements to organise their 2019/20 Swimming Programme direct with EveryoneActive.

I will then also be able to give 3 months notice to Delta Coaches, which needs to be cascaded to them timely given the highly sensitive issue of ending financial contracts with this service provider.

### **National Curriculum Requirements for swimming**

The guidance in the national curriculum regarding what pupils should be taught are quite clear and can be seen below. These attainment targets should be measured and recorded by the time pupils leave in year 6.

Swimming and water safety – All schools must provide swimming instruction in key stage 1 or key stage 2.

In particular, pupils should be taught to:

- swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres.
- use a range of strokes effectively (for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke).
- perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations.