



16<sup>th</sup> January 2020

## **RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FOR A PUPIL TO WEAR SWIMMING GOGGLES**

Your request for your child to wear goggles during swimming lessons due to their allergy to pool water chemicals has been received.

The school has a policy of not normally allowing goggles to be worn by pupils. It is considered important that they are able to deal with splashing in the face, have the ability to open their eyes whilst the face is immersed and swim under water with confidence, all without wearing goggles; attributes that would improve the child's ability to cope if, for example, they fell into a body of water. You need to be aware, therefore, that your child will be required to open their eyes underwater without goggles in order to pass at least one element of the National Curriculum for swimming.

You should also be aware that there is a risk of injury to the eyes if the goggles are not put on or removed safely due to the possibility of them flicking back into the face and therefore your child must know how to do this; please note that school staff will not be responsible for fitting or adjusting goggles. The adult responsible for the group will have the prerogative to require a pupil to remove the goggles for reasons of safety if the pupil constantly adjusts or removes and replaces them.

I am agreeing to your request subject to the following conditions:

- 1) That the goggles are made of unbreakable plastic or rubber materials and they fit your child correctly also that they conform to the latest British Safety Standard for these items.
- 2) That you ensure that your child knows how to adjust the goggles and safely put on and remove them in line with the following instructions, based on the British Standard;

*"When putting goggles on, the part of the goggles covering the eyes should be placed over the eyes and held there by the child with one hand, whilst they pull the retaining band over their head. Similarly, when taking them off, the child holds the part of the goggles covering the eyes with one hand, whilst they pull the retaining band back over their head. If this is done correctly then there is no risk of the goggles flicking back into the eye and causing injury."*

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Katherine Clough  
Headteacher