



Founded 1967

ORION SWIMMING CLUB

LEARNERS' POLICY

At Orion Swimming Club, we pride ourselves on our commitment to teaching swimming. Although we are primarily a competitive swimming club we provide high quality swimming lessons. Our aim is to teach swimming, to have fun, to stay fit and healthy and to develop a good technique with a view to moving on to our regular training programmes and, ultimately, to become part of our successful swimming teams.

Structure

- We have 3 sessions each week, from which swimmers are allocated to:
 - Thursday 18:00 - 19:00 @ King Edward's Girls' Pool.
 - Friday 16:45 - 17:45 @ King Edward's Boys' Pool
 - Sunday 09:00 - 10:00 @ King Edward's Boys' Pool.
- The club management reserves the right to alter these times / days if circumstances within the club alter.
- Each swimmer must pay monthly swimming fees payable by standing order. In addition, each swimmer must pay a yearly Orion Swimming Club membership fee and ASA membership fees. All fees must be paid in order for your child to swim.
- In each Learners' session swimmers are organised into 3 groups:
 - Seahorses - non swimmers
 - Dolphins - swimming widths, competent in deeper water
 - Sharks - competent swimmers, confident in deep water working on strokes
- Swimmers are moved up to the next group following teacher assessment based on improvement and ability. The level 2 swimming teacher in each session will coordinate this and inform the Learners' Coordinator of any changes.
- All Orion swimming teachers are ASA level 1 or level 2 teachers. At least one person with a suitable rescue award or lifesaving qualification will be present at each session.
- The swimmers in the Seahorses group have helpers in the water. These helpers are older swimmers in the club.

How to join

- Orion's Learners' sessions are very popular and places are limited. A waiting list for places on the Learners' sessions is maintained by the Learners' Coordinator.

- Children may join our waiting list at 3½ years old, but no child will be offered a place until they are at least 4 years old.
- When joining the waiting list parents need to give the following information:
 - a contact phone number, address and email address
 - brief details of their child's swimming ability (distances attained, competency in different strokes)
 - their child's date of birth
 - any preference of session
- Siblings of children who are already a member of the club will be able to go onto the waiting list at 3 years old.

Welcome to the club

- We encourage parents to stay and watch their children. Smile and encourage them. Remember that any swimmer aged 8 years or younger must **not** be left unattended at the club.
- Please could parents ensure the swimmers arrive promptly for the start of their session.
- The club provides all swimming aids, but parents should provide their own goggles, swimming hats and drinks.
- When children start swimming they cannot change sessions without discussing it with the Learners' Coordinator. If there are no spaces available in their new preferred session they will have to go on the waiting list, normally at the end, and continue swimming in their current session.
- Please ensure that any adults accompanying children under 8 into the changing rooms use the appropriate changing area i.e. In the King Edwards Boys' Pool - Dads in boys' changing rooms and Mums in girls'. Generally any child over 8 should change independently, however, if they need help for any reason please use the Masters' changing room or the disabled toilet. *This is a child protection issue.*
- At King Edward's Girl's Pool encourage children to use the cubicles. Please do not allow them to run around without clothes on in the changing rooms. *This is a child protection issue.*
- Children should not be changed at the poolside.
- In addition to this, please respect the privacy of the older swimmers who have been helping in the pool.
- If you need to discuss your child's progress with the teacher please do so before or after the sessions so as not to distract them from their teaching role.
- If you are not happy with any aspect of the Learners' sessions or Orion SC please speak directly to the swimming teacher or contact the Learners' Coordinator.
- We also welcome positive comments!

- If you no longer wish your child to continue swimming with us please let us know so that we can offer the place to another child.
- While Orion SC values all its members, the club also has a duty to ensure that its Learners' sessions are available to as many children as practicable.
- Parents/Guardians are urged to keep the Learners' Coordinator informed of the reasons for any prolonged or regular absence from teaching sessions.
- If a child misses 4 consecutive teaching sessions:
 - It will be assumed that they no longer require their place even if they are paying their monthly standing order.
 - The parents/guardians of the child will be informed of this decision in order to enable them to cancel their monthly training fees.
 - The Orion membership fees and ASA membership fees will not be refunded.
 - The place will be offered to the next child of the correct age on the waiting list for that session.
 - This process *may* be delayed at the discretion of the Learners' Coordinator if he or she has been kept informed of the reason for the absences.
- If a child frequently misses teaching sessions:
 - A letter will be written to the parents/guardians of the child informing them that their child's Learners' place may be offered to another child unless their attendance record improves.
 - If repeated absences continue the place will be offered to the next child of the correct age on the waiting list for that session.
 - The parents/guardians of the child will be informed of this decision in order to enable them to cancel their monthly training fees.
 - The Orion membership fees and ASA membership fees will not be refunded.
- Learners are encouraged to enter the Orion Club Swimming Championships held in the autumn each year.
- Learners' sessions normally run throughout the year although there will be no sessions on Bank Holiday weekends. There will be a longer break over the Christmas/New Year period. Details of the pool closures will be put onto the club website www.orionswimmingclub.co.uk and displayed on poolside notice boards.