

SWIMMING AT KEY STAGE 2

Report By: Kathy Roberts – Assistant Director: Improvement and Inclusion

Purpose

1. To provide information on the swimming requirements as part of the National Curriculum at Key Stage 2, and provision made for this by Herefordshire Local Authority.

History to this Subject

2. Children's Services Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 6 July 2009 considered a report on Swimming at Key Stage 2. The Committee were informed that the Authority did not hold records of pupil achievement for swimming at Key Stage 2. The Committee requested that data be sought; a scrutiny review be undertaken into pupil achievement for swimming at Key Stage 2 to establish base line data against which any future trend can be compared, and established the membership of the review group namely Cllrs: WLS Bowen (Chair) MD Lloyd-Hayes, SJ Robertson and AM Toon.
3. At its meeting on 11 December 2009 Children's Services Scrutiny Committee considered the Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2009/10. During debate concern was expressed that if savings were being made in swimming (the agenda report indicated LEA pool £26k) and the Committee requested assurances that adequate provision, particularly for KS2 pupils, was being provided through HALO. The Committee requested a briefing note on this issue.

Financial Implications

4. Maintained schools are not permitted to charge parents for the cost of providing swimming lessons that take place wholly or mainly during school hours, or for the cost of transport to and from the lesson. No charge can be made for lessons or transport outside school hours where the lesson is part of the National Curriculum. There is nothing to stop schools asking for voluntary contributions to cover the cost of school activities, but it must be made clear that no child will be treated differently, or left out of the activity, because their parent is unable or unwilling to make the contribution.
5. The cost of hiring swimming pools can be a major problem for schools where there is an uncoordinated approach. In the DCSF Swimming Charter it is suggested that Local authorities can help schools to overcome this burden at little cost by providing an authority-wide service that schools can buy back from them. In doing so local authorities should:

- where possible, buy pool access during off-peak time when costs are reduced, or negotiate reduced rates;
- buy pool access at end of term for top-up programmes in order to cut costs;
- seek partnerships with pool management companies to provide summer programmes.

Background

6. National Curriculum Requirements:

Swimming is not only a healthy activity, but also acts as an essential life-skill. Swimming and water safety are statutory activities at Key Stage 2, designed to ensure children are able to swim unaided over a distance of at least 25 metres. Swimming is also one of nine workstrands within the national PE, School Sport and Club Links strategy.

7. The National Curriculum Programme of Studies for Key Stage 2 Physical Education states that pupils should be taught the knowledge, skills and understanding through a range of physical activities, including swimming activities. Swimming activities and water safety must be taught unless pupils have completed the full key stage 2 teaching requirements in relation to swimming activities and water safety during key stage 1.

8. Pupils with Special Educational Needs should have the opportunity to engage in the swimming curriculum, whilst those with particular gifts in this area should receive appropriately differentiated provision.

9 In Herefordshire there is a variety of practice in terms of delivery, with some schools offering swimming from Key Stage 1 and others at Key Stage 2 only. If the Programmes of Study are completed in KS1, schools do not have to offer swimming at KS2. The Local Authority does not keep records of pupil achievement for Swimming at Key Stage 2. Neither does OFSTED report on this area of a school's provision although very occasionally an inspector will accompany a school swimming lesson. Schools do not have to keep performance data on swimming. Schools will, however, usually report on pupil's achievements in swimming as part of the child's individual annual report to parents.

10 It is the responsibility of each Governing Body to ensure that schools deliver the National Curriculum, which includes swimming. The Local Authority has a duty to advise Governors on their statutory responsibilities. OFSTED inspections make a judgement on the effectiveness of leadership and management, pupil outcomes and the effectiveness of provision. This includes judgements on *'the effectiveness of the governing body in challenging and supporting the school so that weaknesses are tackled decisively and statutory responsibilities met'*, *'the extent to which pupils adopt healthy lifestyles'*, and *'the extent to which the curriculum meets pupils' needs'*. The sanction for schools not complying with their statutory duty *could* be an inadequate judgment for governance, and a curriculum which fails to help

children adopt healthy lifestyles would also place the school at risk of an unsatisfactory judgement. OFSTED do not look at swimming per se, so these judgements would be based on a range of contributing factors.

11. In terms of facility provision and access The Swimming Charter states that an effective local authority should consider:
 - the location of any new pools to ensure that the pools available to schools meet the access needs (including disabled access) of all pupils;
 - which elements of the curriculum can be delivered away from the pool to achieve economies of scale; and
 - supplying help with teaching, training, changing supervision, life guarding etc.
12. National statistics available from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) for 2005 (most recent data available) indicate that thirty nine children died from drowning that year. Twenty one of these deaths were children aged 7 or younger, six aged 8-11, and twelve aged 12-14.

Provision:

13. Following the Cabinet decision to discontinue the LEA Pool, the management of Hereford HALO Leisure Pool put in place plans for the permanent provision of Key Stage 2 swimming at the Hereford HALO Leisure Pool. Schools are able to bring more pupils to the HALO pool (up to 60) than was possible at the LEA Pool, which was limited to a maximum of 50 pupils.
14. Since September, HALO report that a total of two schools have raised specific issues which the management has acknowledged and dealt with.
15. The Hereford HALO Leisure Pool Manager has arranged a meeting each term for headteachers of all the schools that use the pool to attend to discuss any issues they have and to develop the service provided. The first meeting was attended by two headteachers and the second by 4 headteachers. Existing commitments in Head teacher's diaries, and the heavy workload of Heads prevented some from attending. Halo have responded to this providing two meetings at different times of the day, to allow for more flexibility in attendance. for the following meeting on 19 May 2010. Attendees at previous meetings were positive about the arrangements that the management had put in place and the opportunity to work with the management on developing the provision. Feedback indicates that schools have generally been impressed with how responsive Halo have been to resolve any practical issues.
16. HALO reports that Headteachers and school teachers have reacted positively to a proposal by HALO to provide training for those teachers who accompany pupils to the pool. At the moment, they have no obvious role while the

children are being taught by the pool's instructors. The training will allow school teachers, under the direction of the swimming instructors to contribute to lessons. Children attending KS 2 swimming are often at very different stages of ability, with some children already at, and in advance of the KS2 standard of swimming 25 metres. The active involvement of school teaching staff will allow swimming instructors to focus on improving the skills and abilities of those pupils who need it most, in order to reach the standard required.

17. As an ASA approved training centre, the Hereford HALO Leisure Pool management has secured two training days, to be funded by the ASA, which school teachers can attend at no charge.
18. The adoption of the more rigorous national standard still incorporates a badge scheme, which encourages and rewards children for their achievements at different levels. As a national standard, provided by qualified staff at an ASA approved training pool, this helps the LA, headteachers, pupils and parents can be assured of the quality of swimming instruction pupils are receiving and the standards they are meeting. However, currently some schools have raised complaints about the number of different swimming teachers that children experience and the lack of systematic delivery of badges and certificates.
19. The next phase is to introduce the National Plan and the national swimming awards to schools and the pupils swimming at the Hereford pool. This will bring all schools/pupils swimming at the pool in line with the other schools across the county, who use the other HALO pools in Herefordshire, and across 1,000 other swimming programmes nationwide.
20. There are 12 National Swim awards in total. They are designed to develop water confidence, effective stroke technique and a wide range of aquatic skills. The awards are all based on continuous assessment.
21. In the summer term the ASA regional co-ordinator will be hosting a meeting for Headteachers and teachers responsible for school swimming at HALO, Hereford Leisure pool, to provide information about the National Plan and the award scheme to all schools across the county. The plan is to implement the new scheme from September 2010 at the Hereford pool. The Local Authority will be represented at this meeting.
22. At the December 2009 meeting of the Children's Services Swimming Scrutiny, information was requested on "the level of support provided by the Council through HALO to pupils in achieving Key Stage 2 swimming".
23. The timetable below sets out the provision HALO provides for schools to undertake swimming lessons. Schools book termly and the pool is generally fully booked.

Monday	10.00am to 11.30am	1.30pm to 3.00pm	Whole Pool
Tuesday	9.00am to 11.30am	1.30pm to 3.00pm	“
Wednesday	10.00am to 11.30am	1.30pm to 3.00pm	“
Thursday	9.00am to 11.30am	1.30pm to 3.00pm	“
Friday	10.00am to 11.30am	1.30pm to 3.00pm	“

The table in Appendix 3 reflects the provision for the Spring Term 2010 in Halo pools. This provision may change termly, as some schools timetable swimming in particular terms.

Outcomes

24. Each primary school in Herefordshire was asked the question “How many children last year left school being able to swim unaided for a sustained period of time over a distance of at least 25m?” Out of the 82 primary schools (including the Steiner Academy) 69 have provided us with the requested information and this is shown in table 1. Overall, 88% of year six children were able to swim the expected target minimum of 25 metres at the end of the academic year 2009/10. Schools with a low proportion of pupils able to swim by the end of KS2 gave various reasons for this: pupil absence, pupil disruption in provision transport or closure of LEA pool.

Appendix 1 represents the data collated in numerical form.

Appendix 2 represents the data in a percentage graph.

25. Five schools are unable to provide any data, and nine schools have yet to submit data despite several requests. Of the five schools unable to provide any data, the reasons are as follows:
- Two schools do not hold any records, although swimming is taught.
 - Three schools provide swimming at KS1 only. This includes one Infant School.
 - **All** schools have confirmed that swimming is taught.
26. It is probable therefore that more than 88% of children have achieved this standard in swimming. Since the drafting of this report, HALO have confirmed that more schools are fully utilising the use of their facilities. Seventy Primary schools made use of HALO facilities during the Spring term 2010.

RECOMMENDATION: that the information in the report be noted and, in accordance with the terms of reference for the Scrutiny Review, the Chairman of the scrutiny review consider whether this information be used as the basis for establishing a baseline against which any future trend can be compared.

Appendix 1

HEREFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS SWIMMING STATISTICS

Table 1

2009 2010				
	NAME OF SCHOOL	Number who achieved target	Number of children who left school	Percentage
1	Almeley	6	12	50
2	Ashfield Park	52	62	84
3	Ashperton	20	20	100
4	Bosbury	28	28	100
5	Brampton Abbotts	16	20	80
6	Bredenbury	6	8	75
7	Bridstow	12	12	100
8	Broadlands	15	39	38
9	Brockhampton	22	24	92
10	Burghill	12	12	100
11	Burley Gate	16	20	80
12	Canon Pyon	8	8	100
13	Clehonger	10	15	67
14	Clifford	8	10	80
15	Colwall	28	29	97
16	Cradley	16	16	100
17	Dilwyn	3	3	100
18	Eardisley	13	17	76
19	Eastnor	11	12	92
20	Ewyas Harold	21	22	95
21	Garway	17	18	94
22	Goodrich	15	16	94
23	Gorsley Goffs	25	26	96
24	Hampton Dene	36	38	95
25	Holme Lacy	4	4	100
26	Holmer	42	47	89
27	Ivington	13	15	87
28	Kings Cople	9	9	100
29	Kingsland	22	24	92
30	Kingstone & Thruxton	28	31	90
31	Lea	9	9	100
32	Ledbury	51	68	75
33	Leintwardine	18	18	100
34	Little Dewchurch	5	5	100
35	Llangrove	11	12	92
36	Longtown	9	9	100
37	Luston	17	19	89
38	Marden	13	14	93
39	Marlbrook	42	49	86
40	Michaelchurch Escley	11	13	85
41	Mordiford	20	20	100
42	Much Birch	18	21	86

Further information on the subject of this report is available from

Kathy Roberts – Head of Improvement and Inclusion

Tel: 01432 260804

43	Much Marcle	12	12	100
44	Orleton	20	25	80
45	Pembridge	15	15	100
46	Pencombe	6	6	100
47	Peterchurch	13	13	100
48	Shobdon	5	6	83
49	St James' Kimbolton	10	10	100
50	St James' Hereford	16	18	89
51	St Martin's	47	54	87
52	St Mary's Fownhope	12	13	92
53	St Mary's Credenhill	23	25	92
54	St Peter's	21	21	100
55	St Thomas	42	42	100
56	St Weonard's	11	11	100
57	Staunton-on-Wye	6	6	100
58	Steiner Academy	21	21	100
59	Stoke Prior	10	16	63
60	Stretton Sugwas	9	14	64
61	Sutton	8	8	100
62	Trinity	70	75	93
63	Walford	20	22	91
64	Weobley	28	31	90
65	Weston-under-Penyard	13	14	93
66	Whitbourne C E Primary School,	13	13	100
67	Whitchurch	20	21	95
68	Wigmore School (Primary Division)	24	26	92
69	Withington Primary School,	1	5	20
	Totals	1241	1404	88

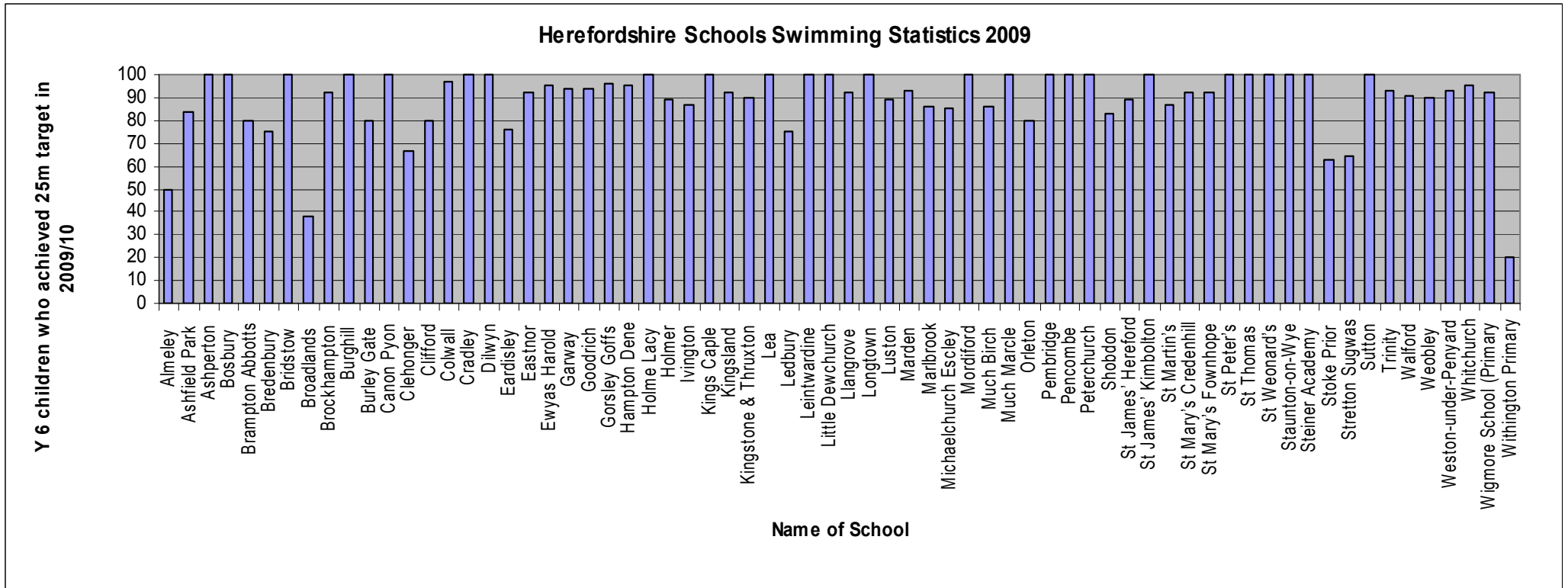
SCHOOLS TEACHING SWIMMING AT KS1 ONLY

1	Leominster Infants' School,			
2	Lord Scudamore School,			
3	Riverside Primary School			

HEREFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS SWIMMING STATISTICS - FULL INFORMATION AWAITED

1	Kington Primary School,	TBA	TBA	
2	Leominster Junior School,	TBA	TBA	
3	Lugwardine Primary School,	TBA	TBA	
4	Madley Primary School,	TBA	TBA	
5	Our Lady's R C Primary School,	TBA	TBA	
6	St Francis Xavier's R C Primary School,	unavailable		
7	St Joseph's R C Primary School,	TBA	TBA	
8	St Michael's C E Primary School,	TBA	TBA	
9	St Paul's C E Primary School,	unavailable		
10	Wellington Primary School,	TBA	TBA	

APPENDIX 2



APPENDIX 3

Herefordshire Schools using HALO Facilities March 2010

Ashperton	Ledbury
Barrs Court School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Bosbury	Ledbury
Brampton Abbots	Ross
Bredenbury	Leominster
Bridstow	Ross
Broadlands Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Burley Gate	Leominster
Clehonger CE Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Colwall	Ledbury
Dilwyn	Leominster
Eardisley	Leominster
Eastnor	Ledbury
Ewyas Harold Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Garway	Ross
Goodrich	Ross
Gorsley Goffs	Ross
Hampton Dene	Ledbury
Holme Lacy Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Holmer CE Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Ivington	Leominster
Kimbolton	Leominster
Kings Cuple Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Kingsland	Leominster
Kingstone and Thruxton Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Lea	Ross
Ledbury	Ledbury
Leominster Infants	Leominster
Leominster Juniors	Leominster
Little Dewchurch CE Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Longtown Community Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Lord Scudamore Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Luston	Leominster
Madley Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Marden	Leominster
Marlbrook Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Michaelchurch Escley Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Mordiford CE Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Much Birch CE Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Much Marcle	Ledbury
Orleton	Leominster
Our Lady's RC Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Pencombe	Leominster
Peterchurch Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Riverside Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Shobdon	Leominster
St Francis Xavier	Leominster

St James CE Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
St Josephs	Ross
St Martins Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
St Mary's, Credenhill	Leominster
St Mary's, Fownhope	Ross
St Michaels, Bodenham	Leominster
St Pauls CE Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
St Thomas Cantilupe CE Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
St Weonards	Ross
Stoke Prior	Leominster
Staunton-on-Wye Endowed Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Stretton Sugwas CE Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre
Sutton	Leominster
The Brookfield School and Specialist College	Hereford Leisure Centre
The Hereford Academy	Hereford Leisure Centre
The Minster - Not regularly	Leominster
Wellington	Leominster
Weobley PS	Leominster
Weston Under Penyard	Ross
Whitebourne	Leominster
Withington Primary School	Hereford Leisure Centre