

Leisure Pool v Portable Pool

Following requests from a number of schools, our team have carried out extensive research into the viability of portable pools for National Curriculum swimming and how this compares to the current swimming provision in Leisure pools.

Key considerations for all schools:

Safeguarding:

1. Where will pupils get changed and how will they get to the pool once changed if the weather is not suitable? Is there a suitable place for this within school?
2. How would the pupils shower before entering the pool? This helps to keep the pool as clean as possible. What about showering afterwards to get the chlorine off their skin?
3. What about security? Are community patrol going to increase cover? Is it an out of hours drowning risk and is it a foreseeable risk that local kids will break into it at night?

Environmental:

1. Wastewater and its impact – What will happen to the wastewater? Have a school considered the negative impact on the environment of using and then disposing of 55,000 litres of water containing a range of chemicals? Will it have an impact on the rest of the school and local businesses and homes?
2. Energy consumption and costs – The figures below (see table) are a reasonable estimate of how much it would cost to fill and heat the pool for a two-week block of swimming.

Moral:

1. Woodchurch Swimming Pool shut down due to lack of revenue and will be remaining closed indefinitely. Our local facilities need income from school swimming to keep them open and available for your young people and families.

Logistics:

1. How will having a pool on the school site for up to 21 days impact on everyday school life – break times and lunch times, PE lessons, after school activities, drop off and pick up of pupils.
2. Only 12 pupils in a pool at any one time. What will the rest of the class be doing and does this impact on staffing and supervision.
3. Which pupils will be able to touch the floor within the pool? The pool is one depth (1.4m). Older pupils may be able to touch the bottom throughout. Research shows that this can be detrimental to teaching pupils to swim over a 25m distance.
4. What is the process if the pool becomes contaminated? How long will it take to clean/filter or refill and what are the associated costs?

Quality of Teaching:

1. How is the quality of instruction ensured? How does a school know if an instructor is suitably qualified and experienced?
2. Is there a proven track record of teaching National Curriculum Swimming? Where is the evidence that teaching in a portable pool will be beneficial to pupils?



The following comparison is based on a school swimming in a leisure centre pool for 2 weeks per term. They would swim for 1 hour each day with one transport journey at the start and end of the 1 hour session.

	Leisure Centre Pool	Elite Pools
Costs		
Pool hire cost (average swimming Programme)	£5040 - 1hr x 2 weeks each term	£5000* – 2 weeks <small>*this is based on the school already having an outdoor electricity supply. This will cost £2000 extra to install</small>
Additional Charges	Transport: £2850	Water and Heating costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water to fill £70-£140 - Heating £200-£250 per day - x17 days depending on season
TOTAL Cost	£7890	£8600
30 minute session	£84	£57
Cost per pupil	£2-£2.50	£4.75
Pool Time		
Sessions (Average swimming Programme)	60 x 30 minutes	110 x 30 minutes
Number of pupils (total across the programme)	180	131
Minutes per pupil (Across the programme)	300	300
Pool Capacity	36 swimmers	12 swimmers
What is included		
Swimming Instructors (Level 2 minimum)	x2	x1
Lifeguard	✓	✓
Changing Rooms	✓	X
Showers	✓	X
Pool		
Pool Length	25m	10m
Pool Width	10m-15m	5m
Pool Depth	Variable depth	1.4m
Capacity	36 pupils	12 pupils
Adjustable Floor	✓	X

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