

Physical or operational hazard	Who can be harmed and how?	Best practices	Additional comments
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## **Pop-up-pools in schools - Preliminary review.**

### **Introduction**

As schools strive to provide diverse educational opportunities to ensure students meet the swimming national curriculum, the use of pop-up pools has become increasingly popular on the Wirral. These temporary pool installations while providing valuable learning opportunities, also introduce a range of potential hazards that must be proactively addressed. From the risk of drowning to the possibility of slips, trips and falls, the implementation of robust safety measures is critical to protecting pupils and preventing serious injury.

This initial assessment will review some of key issues that schools should consider for the use of pop-up pools in the school environment and provide an overview of initial risks.

### **Duty of care**

It is crucial that the legal roles and responsibilities are clearly defined between both, the school and pool provider, during the leasing term of agreement. Both must ensure that they adhere to relevant regulations, conduct thorough risk assessments, and implementing stringent safety protocols and guidelines. By taking a comprehensive approach to health and safety, schools can create an environment where students can enjoy the benefits of swimming while feeling secure and confident maximising the benefits from the pop-up pool experience.

### **Collaboration with Local Authority, Schools, and Pool Operators**

Establishing a close collaboration, strong partnerships and open communication with the main key stakeholders is essential for ensuring a safe and successful operation of a pop-up swimming pool in a school setting. The sharing of information, expertise, resources, and oversight will enhance the overall safety and compliance of the pool facility.

Through this collaborative approach, schools can leverage the expertise and resources of the LA and pool operator to create a holistic safety ecosystem for the pop-up swimming pool. By aligning on safety protocols, maintenance procedures, and emergency response plans, all stakeholders can work together to provide a secure and enjoyable aquatic experience for the students.



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**Table Below**

The following is my initial review based on limited information currently available. I have contacted the company providing the service for all the relevant written documentation and have had no reply to date.

<p>Ensuring Compliance with Insurance Requirements</p> <p>Failure to identify and comply with insurance requirements for operating a pop-up swimming pool on school grounds.</p>	<p>LA employees</p> <p>Pupils</p> <p>Third parties</p> <p>Number of persons ( )</p> <p>Nature of injury ( )</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools must carefully review their existing insurance policies and work closely with their providers to ensure the pool facility is adequately covered against potential risks and liabilities.</li> <li>Comprehensive insurance coverage not only protects the school and its students but also demonstrates a commitment to responsible risk management.</li> <li>Key insurance considerations for pop-up swimming pools include general liability, property damage, and accident/injury coverage.</li> </ul>	<p>Schools should work with their insurance providers to understand the specific policy requirements, such as minimum coverage limits, safety protocols, and incident reporting procedures. Failure to meet these requirements could result in gaps in coverage that could leave the school financially vulnerable in the event of an incident or accident.</p> <p>In addition to the standard insurance coverage, schools may also need to explore specialised policies that address the unique risks associated with operating a temporary pool facility. This could include coverage for equipment failure, water contamination, or even legal liability related to the pool's installation and operation.</p>
<p>Initial build and removal of equipment.</p>	<p>LA employees</p> <p>Pupils</p> <p>Third parties</p> <p>Number of persons ( )</p> <p>Nature of injury ( )</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe installation and dismantling of pool and infrastructure.</li> <li>Stability of ground and surrounding structures.</li> <li>Risk assessment for each site or permit to work.</li> <li>Restricted access while the structure is being installed and dismantled, has traffic management been considered and emergency service access.</li> <li>Management of services, electrical and water.</li> <li>Environmental considerations, abnormal weather, safe parameters marquee (wind speed), mature trees.</li> <li>Disposal of pool water and impact on water systems.</li> </ul>	<p>Permit to work – written scheme of work, safety controls for installation and dismantling of equipment. To include disposal of disinfected, polluted pool water.</p>

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<p>Inadequate risk assessments.</p> <p>Failure to undertake suitable and sufficient risk assessments, identification of hazards and failure to establish effective controls.</p>	<p>LA employees</p> <p>Pupils</p> <p>Third parties</p> <p>Number of persons ( )</p> <p>Nature of injury ( )</p> <p>Injury due to exposure to unidentified hazards or ineffective mechanisms of control.</p>	<p>Both stakeholders shall ensure a robust hazard identification and risk assessment process is established, site specific, task and activity related,</p> <p>The risk assessments should be the basis of a written normal operating procedure (NOP) and emergency action plan (EAP), specific to each location and shall include.</p> <p>Pool</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation and removal of the structure</li> <li>• Positioning of pool structure in relation to, mature trees, ground stability and abnormal weather (wind speed for marquee)</li> <li>• Pool security, preventing unauthorised access and unsupervised use.</li> <li>• Welfare and changing facilities.</li> <li>• Slips trips and falls, pool access and egress.</li> <li>• Pool use, activities, and equipment.</li> <li>• Pool lifeguard qualification and on-going monthly competency training (RLSS)</li> <li>• Pool supervision, lifeguard and swimming teacher roles and responsibilities.</li> <li>• Pool alarms and rescue equipment.</li> <li>• First aid procedures and provisions.</li> <li>• Emergency procedures, drowning, spinal injury, removal of casualty from pool, CPR</li> </ul> <p>Pool plant treatment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positioning of pool infrastructure, services. and electrical systems</li> <li>• Pool Plant qualifications.</li> <li>• Chemical dosing, testing regime, safe working parameters and reactive measures.</li> <li>• Chemical storage, PPE, refilling of chemicals, COSHH risk assessments and training.</li> <li>• Disposal of pool water and impact on water system.</li> <li>• Emergency procedures. Chemical spill or release, faecal, vomit and blood contamination, high and low water balance testing, poor environmental bacterial test results.</li> </ul> <p>Notes:</p> <p>Freeboard height, and access ladder, what controls are in place to safely remove an unconscious casualty.</p> <p>Lifeguard duty, spells on poolside. Not to exceed 90 mins, must be away from pool environment.</p>	<p>The school can develop and implement appropriate control measures to mitigate or reduce hazards.</p> <p>These measures may include enhanced safety signage, the installation of additional safety features, improved supervision protocols, and comprehensive emergency response planning.</p> <p>Regularly reviewing and updating the risk assessment process ensures that the school's safety protocols remain current and effective in protecting the well-being of all pupils.</p> <p>Ensuring all staff are trained in the NOP and EAP, clearly identifying individual roles and responsibilities. Written evidence of competency would be required.</p>

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<p>Lack of appropriately trained staff</p> <p>Failure to identify training needs and provide suitable training for all employees.</p>	<p>LA employees</p> <p>Pupils</p> <p>Third parties</p> <p>Number of persons ( )</p> <p>Nature of injury ( )</p>	<p>Comprehensive training is essential to ensure the safe and effective operation of the pop-up swimming pool. The training program should cover a wide range of topics, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pool Safety Protocols:</b> Detailed instruction on the pool safety policies, emergency procedures, and communication channels to ensure a coordinated response in the event of an incident.</li> <li>• <b>Lifeguard Responsibilities:</b> Training on the specific duties and expectations of lifeguards, including scanning techniques, rescue procedures, and first aid administration.</li> <li>• <b>Student Supervision Strategies:</b> Guidance on effective student management and supervision strategies, such as maintaining appropriate staff-to-student ratios and implementing behavior management techniques.</li> <li>• <b>Water Quality Monitoring:</b> Instruction on the proper testing and maintenance of water quality parameters, including pH, chlorine levels, and temperature, to maintain a safe and sanitary swimming environment.</li> <li>• <b>Equipment Operation and Maintenance:</b> Training on the proper use, maintenance, and troubleshooting of the pool's equipment, such as filtration systems, pumps, and disinfection systems.</li> </ul>	<p>Equipping staff with the necessary knowledge and skills, schools can empower their personnel to proactively manage the pool environment, respond to emergencies, and maintain the highest safety standards for all students.</p>

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Chemical safety	<p>LA employees</p> <p>Pupils</p> <p>Third parties</p> <p>Number of persons ( )</p> <p>Nature of injury ( )</p>	<p>Stakeholders to undertake COSHH risk assessment to identify any hazards and establish controls. These shall include.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure area: Storage must prevent unauthorised access and vandalism; physical controls must be installed preventing such incidents from occurring.</li> <li>• Delivery and dispensing: Arrangements to ensure safe delivery and dispensing of chemicals with the school premises, training requirements and PPE.</li> <li>• Separation: Storage of incompatible chemicals in separate labeled containers to prevent dangerous chemicals interacting.</li> <li>• Temperature control: Maintain storage temperatures to ensure chemical stability and prevent degradation, proper air flow will help dissipate fumes and prevent the buildup of hazardous gases.</li> <li>• Spill containment: Secondary containment like bungs or trays to mitigate the impact of spills or leaks.</li> <li>• Labelling: Clear markings on all containers, with the chemical information, identification of hazards and safety instructions.</li> <li>• Spill response: Develop a comprehensive plan for containing and cleaning up spills or leaks.</li> <li>• Emergency procedures to be established in the event of exposure or contact with hazardous substances.</li> </ul>	<p>The correct storage and handling of pool chemicals within a school environment is crucial to ensure safety and preventing children from exposure to hazardous substances.</p> <p>Understanding the potential hazards and following best practices are essential for both schools and pool providers.</p>

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Water quality and welfare requirements	<p>LA employees</p> <p>Pupils</p> <p>Third parties</p> <p>Number of persons</p> <p>Nature of injury</p>	<p>Stakeholders must ensure a robust scheme of testing and written procedures so to provide a swimming pool environment that is free from harm for all users,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular Water Testing and Monitoring: Implementing a comprehensive water testing and monitoring program to regularly test the pool water for pH levels, chlorine or bromine concentrations, and the presence of any contaminants or harmful bacteria. This data helps inform necessary water treatment.</li> <li>• Proper Water Disinfection: Utilising appropriate disinfection methods, such as chlorination or bromine treatment, to maintain the recommended levels of disinfection agents in the pool water. This helps to kill harmful microorganisms and prevent the spread of waterborne illnesses.</li> <li>• Strict Hygiene Protocols: Enforcing strict hygiene protocols, including regular pool cleaning, the use of foot baths, and requiring all pool users to shower before entering the water to minimize the introduction of contaminants.</li> <li>• Continuous Water Filtration and Circulation: Ensuring that the pool's filtration and circulation systems are functioning properly to continuously clean and recirculate the water, removing debris and maintaining water clarity.</li> <li>• Reactive controls and emergency protocols: Implementing comprehensive procedures, such as shock chlorination, to address any water quality issues or the presence of infectious agents, and to maintain the pool's cleanliness and safety. Establish emergency responses and procedures for contamination, faecal fouling.</li> <li>• A significant risk associated with using swimming pools, particularly those used young children, is the hazard caused by faecal fouling. Pool operators must have procedures to cover faecal fouling incidents. Staff must be trained in these procedures.</li> </ul>	<p>Maintaining the highest standards of water quality and welfare facilities is essential for ensuring the health and safety of students using pop-up swimming pools in schools.</p> <p>Proper water treatment and disinfection measures must be implemented to prevent the spread of waterborne illnesses and to ensure the pool water remains clean, clear, and safe for use.</p>

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<p>Emergency Response Planning</p> <p>Failure to establishing a comprehensive emergency response plan in the event of an incident or accident at the pop-up swimming pool.</p>	<p>LA employees</p> <p>Pupils</p> <p>Third parties</p> <p>Number of persons ( )</p> <p>Nature of injury ( )</p>	<p>The plan should be developed in collaboration with the school and pool provider, to ensure seamless coordination and effective response. This plan should outline clear protocols and procedures to be followed in various emergency scenarios, such as injuries, drownings, or environmental hazards. Key components of the emergency response plan should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear Communication Protocols: Establishing efficient communication channels, such as emergency alarms, and staff radios, to rapidly alert and mobilise the appropriate personnel in an emergency.</li> <li>• Defined Roles and Responsibilities: Clearly delineating the specific roles and responsibilities of staff, lifeguards, and emergency responders during an incident, ensuring a coordinated and effective response.</li> <li>• First Aid and CPR Capabilities: Ensuring that a sufficient number of staff members are trained in first aid and CPR, and that appropriate medical equipment and supplies are readily available at the pool area.</li> <li>• Evacuation and Closing Procedures: Outlining detailed evacuation plans and protocols for quickly and safely removing students and staff from the pool area in the event of an emergency, as well as procedures for temporarily closing the pool if necessary.</li> <li>• Regular Testing: Conducting regular emergency response drills and testing the effectiveness of the plan, allowing for continuous improvement and ensuring that all staff are prepared to respond appropriately in an actual emergency situation</li> </ul>	<p>Site specific issues to be included, such as raising the alarm, emergency service access first aid provisions.</p>
<p>Electrical safety</p> <p>Failure to undertake an electrical assessment and preventing exposure to electricity</p>	<p>LA employees</p> <p>Pupils</p> <p>Third parties</p> <p>Number of persons ( )</p> <p>Nature of injury ( )</p>	<p>Electricity and water pose inherent risks, and special precautions must be taken to mitigate the potential for electric shocks, short circuits, or other hazardous electrical incidents. Key electrical safety considerations for pop-up pools include.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterproof Electrical Connections: Implementing waterproof and weatherproof enclosures and connections for all electrical components, ensuring that the pool area remains dry and free from potential water infiltration.</li> <li>• Routine Inspections and Maintenance: Regularly inspecting the electrical systems, including cables, outlets, and equipment, to identify and address any issues or deterioration that could compromise safety.</li> <li>• Emergency Shut-Off Capabilities: Ensuring the availability of clearly marked emergency shut-off switches or buttons that can quickly disable the electrical supply in the event of an incident or emergency.</li> </ul>	<p>Ensuring the electrical safety is a critical component of the overall health and safety assessment</p>

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<p>Maintenance and Regular Inspections</p> <p>Failure to provide safe plant, machinery, and equipment.</p>	<p>LA employees</p> <p>Pupils</p> <p>Third parties</p> <p>Number of persons ( )</p> <p>Nature of injury ( )</p>	<p>Stakeholders must implement a comprehensive maintenance program that addresses both the physical infrastructure and the operational systems of the pool. This includes regularly inspecting the pool structure, and associated equipment to identify and address any wear, damage, or potential hazards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Routine pool maintenance tasks should include checking the integrity of the pool walls and floor, examining the stability and condition of the access ladders, and testing the drainage and circulation systems.</li> <li>Electrical and plumbing components, such as pumps, filters, and disinfection equipment, should also be thoroughly inspected and serviced according to the manufacturer's recommendations. By staying proactive with these maintenance activities, schools can mitigate the risk of equipment failure, water quality issues, or structural problems that could compromise the safety of the pool.</li> <li>These inspections should evaluate the overall condition of the pool, ensure compliance with relevant regulations and guidelines, and identify any necessary improvements or corrective actions.</li> </ul>	<p>Maintaining the pop-up swimming pool and conducting regular inspections are critical to ensuring the continued safety and functionality of the facility.</p> <p>Ensuring maintenance and regular inspections, schools can demonstrate their commitment to the ongoing safety and reliability of the pop-up swimming pool, providing students with a secure and well-maintained facility for their aquatic activities.</p>
<p>Security</p> <p>Failing to take effective measures to prevent unauthorised access to a pool intended to be out of use.</p>	<p>LA employees</p> <p>Pupils</p> <p>Third parties</p> <p>Number of persons ( )</p> <p>Nature of injury ( )</p>	<p>Consideration must be given in establishing robust and effective measures to prevent unauthorised access to the pool intended to be out of use, evenings, and weekends, consideration should be given to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical barriers and operational controls: Prevention of unsupervised student access into the pool area when intended to be out of use during school operational hours.</li> <li>Pools, generators, chemical stores, and other restricted areas should be secured against unauthorised access.</li> <li>Evenings and weekends: Effective, robust measures, including physical barriers must be established preventing unauthorised access into the school grounds and pool area during evenings and weekends.</li> </ul>	<p>Additional security, positioning of the pool away from pedestrian routes. Regular checks,</p>
<p>Weather</p> <p>Failing to identify and prepare for abnormal weather conditions and the impact upon the pool structures and surrounding environment.</p>	<p>LA employees</p> <p>Pupils</p> <p>Third parties</p> <p>Number of persons ( )</p> <p>Nature of injury ( )</p>	<p>Identification and management of the effects of abnormal weather conditions upon the pool structure and marquee must be addressed by the stakeholders. This shall include the positioning of the pool in relation to structures and mature trees, and wind speed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial installation process to identify safe locations within the school premises.</li> <li>Establish safe parameters following the manufactures guidelines and recommendations for both marquees and pool structure/tank.</li> <li>Establish adequate emergency response procedures based on the risk assessment process and manufacturers guidance.</li> </ul>	<p>Establish the safe working parameters in relation to the marquee, and if required, what measures are in place to accurately determine the wind speed.</p> <p>Consult with manufacturers for advice and recommendations. This information must reflect in the normal and emergency operation procedures.</p>



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<p>Lifeguard Supervision</p> <p>Failing to provide suitably trained lifeguards, constant supervision and respond to an emergency.</p>	<p>LA employees</p> <p>Pupils</p> <p>Third parties</p> <p>Number of persons ( )</p> <p>Nature of injury ( )</p>	<p>Ensuring adequate supervision and the presence of qualified lifeguards is a critical component of maintaining a safe environment for students using pop-up swimming pools in schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At a minimum, schools should have at least one certified lifeguard on duty during all pool operating hours. Ideally, the lifeguard should have specific training in aquatic rescue, first aid, and CPR, and be familiar with the school's emergency response plan. In addition to the lifeguard.</li> <li>Additional staff, such as swim instructors or supervisory aides, to monitor the pool area and assist with student management and safety. These staff members should receive comprehensive training on their roles, responsibilities, and emergency procedures to ensure they can effectively support the lifeguard and respond appropriately to any incidents.</li> <li>Clear communication and coordination between the lifeguard, school staff, and school administration is essential to maintain a robust safety protocols. This includes regular safety briefings, the establishment of clear chains of command, and the implementation of a comprehensive emergency action plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Stakeholders must carefully assess the necessary level of supervision based on factors such as pool size, student-to-staff ratios, and the age and swimming ability of the participants.</p> <p>Correct staffing and supervision protocols help prevent accidents, respond quickly to emergencies, and provide a sense of security for both students and employees.</p>
<p>Accessibility and Inclusivity for Students</p>	<p>LA employees</p> <p>Pupils</p> <p>Third parties</p> <p>Number of persons ( )</p> <p>Nature of injury ( )</p>	<p>Key considerations for accessibility and inclusivity include.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing ample space and ramps for wheelchair users to easily navigate the pool area, as well as ensuring the availability of specialised equipment and assistive devices to support students with physical, sensory, or cognitive disabilities.</li> <li>Schools should also work closely with families and staff to understand the unique needs of their students and make the necessary accommodations to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all.</li> <li>Additionally, schools should foster a culture of acceptance and understanding, offer adaptive swim lessons, providing sensitivity training for staff, and developing clear policies and procedures for supporting students with special needs.</li> </ul>	<p>When incorporating pop-up swimming pools into the school environment, it is crucial to ensure that the facilities are accessible and inclusive for all students.</p>

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<p>Signage and Safety Instructions for Pool Users</p> <p>Failing to provide adequate information and instruction regarding safe procedures and warnings off pool hazards.</p>	<p>LA employees</p> <p>Pupils</p> <p>Third parties</p> <p>Number of persons ( )</p> <p>Nature of injury ( )</p>	<p>The signage and safety instructions should be prominently displayed and easily accessible throughout the pool environment. This includes posting large, easy-to-read signs that clearly outline the pool rules, emergency procedures, and prohibited activities. These signs should be strategically placed at the pool entrance, and near any potential hazards, such as deep-end areas or slippery surfaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signage should include pictograms and universal symbols to convey important messages, such as "No Running" or "Shallow End", in a clear and intuitive manner.</li> <li>• Safety instructions should provide step-by-step guidance for proper pool usage, including instructions on entering and exiting the water, proper swimming techniques, and emergency response procedures.</li> <li>• Supplementary signage should highlight the location of emergency equipment, such as life preservers, first aid kits, and emergency alarms.</li> </ul>	<p>Effective signage and clear safety instructions are essential for ensuring the well-being of students using the pop-up swimming pool on school grounds.</p> <p>These visual cues and informative guidelines play a crucial role in promoting safe behaviours, preventing accidents</p>
<p>Disposal of pool water</p> <p>Improperly disposing of chlorinated pool water posing significant risk to environment</p>	<p>LA employees</p> <p>Pupils</p> <p>Third parties</p> <p>Number of persons ( )</p> <p>Nature of injury ( )</p>	<p>Chlorinated pool water can be harmful to the environment, discharging can contaminate groundwater and have far reaching consequences for the surrounding community and local environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholders aware of and comply with local regulations and guidelines regarding the disposal of chlorinated pool water. These may vary and may include specific requirements for water testing or neutralisation.</li> <li>• Risk assessments and method statements must clearly identify disposal methods and compliance to local regulations.</li> <li>• Pre-disposal actions, where required. Pool water being treated and tested to ensure safe parameters before disposal.</li> <li>• Additional, localised water systems and areas under protection, within the school location must be identified and controls established to minimise/prevent risk associated with chlorinated pool water.</li> <li>• Establish pool capacity, how much water will be released.</li> </ul>	<p>Planned method statements from the pool provider regarding safe disposal prior to installation.</p> <p>Gradual drain recommended to allow the chlorines levels to dissipate and reduce the risk of overwhelming drainage systems.</p> <p>Neutralisation, use of sodium thiosulphate or other products may be used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chlorine risks</li> <li>• Regulatory guidance</li> <li>• Best practices</li> <li>• Environmental impact management</li> </ul>

### Note

As a result of the lack of information currently available, these are preliminary findings only, a detailed assessment will be undertaken, upon receiving feedback from the pool provider and inspection of a pop-up pool whilst operational.