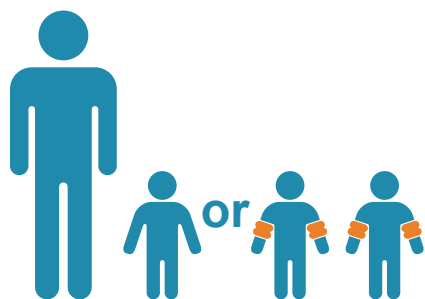


Pool Admissions Policy

Important Information

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar strictly adheres to the following health and safety guidelines for children under 8 years of age during public swimming sessions.*

All under 8s must be accompanied in the water by a responsible person (16 years or over) as follows:

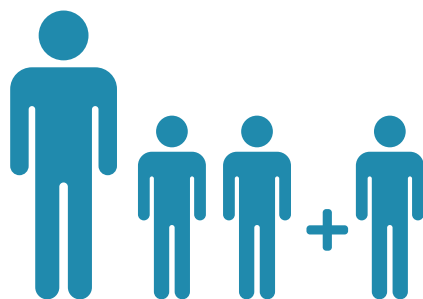


0-3 years old

One responsible person can accompany one child with or without armbands,

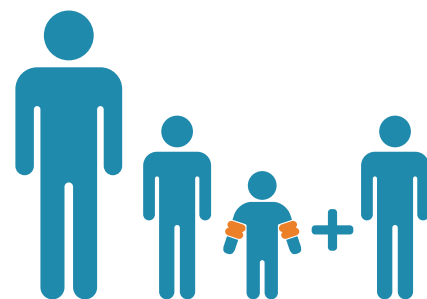
OR

One responsible person can accompany two children with armbands.



4-7 years old

One responsible person can accompany up to two children with or without armbands. They may add a third child if at least one child has completed ASA/ISRM Pool Swimming Standard Award.



Mixed Ages

One responsible person can accompany one child 0-3 years old and one child 4-7 years old, if the 0-3 year old is wearing armbands.

They may add a third child if that child is 4-7 years old and has completed ASA/ISRM Pool Swimming Standard Award.

*Effective from 1 January 2013.



Additional Control Measures

The following additional control measures are in place throughout all Comhairle nan Eilean Siar facilities where applicable:

Toddlers Pools

Armbands need not be worn in Toddlers Pools.

Deep Water

Children aged 4 – 7 years who have completed the ASA/ISRM Pool Swimming Standard Award can enter deep water. A responsible person must accompany them in the pool at all times.

Inflatable

Activities in water under 1.5m deep

Children under 8 may use the inflatable if they wear approved armbands and a responsible person maintains a constant watch over them. Children aged 4 – 7 years who have achieved the ASA/ISRM Pool Swimming Standard Award may use the inflatable without armbands, with a responsible person maintaining a constant watch over them.

Activities in water over 1.5m deep

Children aged 4 – 7 years may use the inflatable if they have achieved the ASA/ISRM Pool Swimming Standard Award and a responsible person maintains a constant watch over them.

What is the ASA/ISRM Pool Swimming Award?

This is a nationally recognised award that provides evidence that young people can fulfil the following criteria:-

1. Jump from the side into water of 1.5 metres or more so that the head fully submerges.

(Alternatively, where there is shallow water, hold a submerged mushroom float for 10 seconds).

2. Then, tread water for 1 minute.

3. Then swim 50 metres in under 2 minutes.

We will need to record this information to ensure that only youngsters who have met these standards access these sessions – please ask at Reception for more information.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q What guidance was used to develop the Pool Admissions Policy?

A Guidance is available from Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Institute of Sport and Recreation Management (ISRM). The guidance strongly recommends that all children under 8 years should always be accompanied in the water by a responsible person (16 years or over).

Q How was a decision reached on the number of children one responsible person can accompany?

A Risk assessments were carried out taking into account the design, layout and type of pool; the swimming ability and age of children and whether approved armbands are being worn by non-swimmers.

Q What is expected of the responsible person accompanying children under 8 years?

A They will need to go into the water with the children they are accompanying. Whilst in the pool they must maintain a constant watch over the children for whom they are responsible and be in close contact with those of their children who are weak or non-swimmers (i.e. children who have not completed the ASA/ISRM Pool Swimming Standard Award). Children should never be left on the poolside or in the pool without an accompanying responsible person.

Q How does my child complete the ASA/ISRM Pool Swimming Standard Award?

A Just ask at Reception prior to your swim and we'll arrange for your child to be assessed during your visit. If this is not possible, we will arrange a time with you to undertake this as soon as possible.