

Qualifications and Training to teach swimming

Many schools in Cambridgeshire have swimming pools on site. It is likely that a significant number of classroom teachers and teaching assistants will be involved in the delivery of a swimming programme.

The issue of qualifications to teach is related to competence and can be defined as 'having the skills, knowledge, understanding and expertise necessary to plan, deliver and evaluate the programme' (Whitlam, J 2012, Safe Practice in Physical Education and School Sport. Association for Physical Education). Schools have a responsibility to provide swimming in a safe environment with sound concession to the needs and stages of development of all the learners in their care. Schools must therefore provide opportunities for teachers to engage in swimming specific professional development.

Although many teaching and learning skills are generic, swimming by its very nature has a higher level of risk and technical content. Teachers need to be confident with what they teach, in addition to how they teach.

Schools should aspire to have all teachers who lead or assist with the delivery of curriculum swimming suitably qualified within 3 years.

Name of Qualification / Award	Awarding Body	Award Details
Level 1 Award for Teaching Aquatics	ASA / UKCC Framework	This award enables the holder to assist a higher qualified swimming teacher / coach to deliver a swimming session.
Level 2 Award for Teaching Aquatics	ASA / UKCC	This is the minimum level of qualification that schools should be looking to employ if contracting specialist swimming teachers to deliver swimming.
National Curriculum Training Programme	ASA	This is a course aimed at Teachers, and provides a grounding in the fundamental principles of teaching aquatics safely to children within the curriculum. The integrated course is available as a blended or face-2-face option, and will help develop teachers' knowledge and ability to teach and lead swimming lessons in primary schools. Because it does not provide a water safety element, teachers must not work alone.