

# Swimming Pool – Child Supervision Policy

Edge Hill Sport aims to provide users of the swimming pool with an enjoyable experience in a safe environment. This policy aims to provide a balanced and practical approach to the safe supervision of children in our swimming pool. It is created in line with guidance from The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA), the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA), the Royal Lifesaving Society (RLSS), Pool Water Treatment Group (PWTAG) and industry best practice as used in other similar facilities. All pool users should ensure they shower before entering the swimming pool and if you have had a diarrhoea illness recently, you should not use the swimming pool.



## Babies under 6 months old

In accordance with PWTAG and CIMSPA guidance, we do not recommend swimming for babies under 6 months old. *'The water in ordinary public pools is not suited to very young babies, water temperatures and pool water chemicals may affect sensitive skin. For this reason, parents should be encouraged not to bring children under the age of 6 months to public swimming pools where they share the water with other general swimmers.'*



## Children under the age of 4

Children under the age of 4 must be supervised by a responsible adult on 1 to 1 ratio. This adult may only supervise one child and cannot be responsible for any additional children who may need direct supervision whilst in the pool. Young children should also use special swimming nappies which are designed to absorb and retain any soiling. Standard nappies do not provide adequate protection.



## Children 4 or over and under 8

Children 4 or over and under 8 must be supervised by a responsible adult on a maximum 1 to 2 ratio. This adult may only supervise these two children and cannot be responsible for any additional children who may need direct supervision whilst in the pool. When supervising a child between the ages of 4 and 8, an adult cannot also supervise a child under the age of 4 as they require 1 to 1 supervision as stated above. All under 8's must also be accompanied in the communal changing rooms by a responsible adult



## Children 8 or over and under 12

All children 8 or over and under 12 must be accompanied by an adult whilst they are using the pool. Providing the child is a competent swimmer (i.e. can easily swim 25m unassisted), the adult does not need to enter the pool water with them, however they must remain within the Sports Centre Building at all times. Children aged 8 or over are only permitted to use the changing area applicable for their gender.

**Non-Programmed (Open Swim) Sessions** All children under the age of 8 must be accompanied in the pool by one or more responsible adults who are at least 16 years of age and competent swimmers. These responsible adults must enter the water, remain in full eye contact with the swimmer, and be in close proximity to them throughout their visit to the pool. The adult(s) must not leave the swimmers at any point and alternative temporary arrangements must be made should it be necessary to leave a child at any time in order to maintain the stated ratios.