

Mer-Fin Swim Ltd	Residual Risk Assessment of: Swimming lessons Area: Prestfelde school						Carried out by: Amy Bridges		
Full review date: September 2026	Review date: Ongoing as required (amendments in red) (amendments since last review in green)	Specialist assessment needed: N/A Main contact out of hours – Nev Speake							
Assessment of Risk									
What are the Risks/Hazards?	Likelihood			Severity			Risk		
	L	M	H	L	M	H	L	M	H
Swimmers entering poolside unsupervised	X				X		X		
Risk of drowning/injury to swimmers & team members – SEN swimmers	X					X		X	
Depth of water		X			X			X	
Slips/Trips/Falls		X			X			X	
Training/Qualifications	X			X			X		
Non-swimmers/ weak swimmers and swimmers with disabilities	X				X			X	
Dunking, fighting, bullying, gymnastics, acrobatics, and boisterous games	X				X		X		

Risk/Hazard	What measures are in place?
Swimmers entering poolside unsupervised	• Co-ordinator to greet swimmers on poolside and ensuring they wait opposite their swim section away from the water. • Co-ordinator and Lifeguard to supervise children waiting against the wall for their lesson to start. • Parents are asked to wait with younger swimmers or those who are likely to try and enter the water when not appropriate. • When the day's session ends, the changing room doors are locked behind the last team member to leave poolside.
Swimmers at risk of injury/drowning during lessons	• Lifeguard on poolside whilst the pool is occupied. • Safety instructions are reiterated to the swimmers before entering the pool. • Swimmers are not to enter the water unless an instructor or dedicated assistant is present. • Instructor to check the register prior to swimmers entering the water. • Instructor to ensure that non-swimmers are using appropriate floatation aids whilst swimming or, when practicing unaided swimming, that they are fully supervised by in-pool team.

• Team member at risk of harm	• Ratios are kept to a maximum of 3:1 for non-swimmers and weak swimmers. 4:1 for intermediate and advanced swimmers. • Children have access to the appropriate required swimming aids. • In-pool & poolside teaching team members to always supervise swimmers in their class. • Swim teachers to teach age/ability-suitable activities to their class. • Lifeguard to supervise shallow end during the last 5 minutes of each width lesson. • Where required for a complex needs SEN swimmer in a 1:1 lesson or 2:1 lesson of the same family – a parent/guardian may be required to assist the swimmer during the lesson from the water within their own section/lane. • Teachers to not physically support if there is a risk of injury to themselves as a result. This does not override lifesaving support in the event on an emergency. • Teachers are to tie long hair up to reduce risk of hair pulling.
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SEN swimmers • Swimmer at risk of harm and/or drowning	• Teachers are not to wear any jewellery (at any time when teaching) due to the risk of injury to swimmers and themselves. • Physical support without floatation equipment must only be used in shallow water and where there is no risk of harm to the teacher. Where potential harm has been identified a parent/guardian will be required to assist the swimmer during the lesson from within the water. This does not override lifesaving support in the event on an emergency. • SEN swimmers are to be placed in the most suitable ratio class for their needs. • Where required for a complex needs SEN swimmer in a 1:1 lesson, or 2:1 lesson of the same family – a parent/guardian may be required to assist the swimmer during the lesson from the water. • SEN swimmers are to be placed with confident team members who desirably have experience of SEN swimmers or a complimentary qualification/CPD. • Swimmers to use suitable floatation aids for their age and ability where this is not possible, physical support is acceptable with parent/guardians' approval and if the swimmer poses no risk of harm to the teacher.
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	- Physical support without floatation equipment must only be used in shallow water. - Teachers are to report to management about any potential safety issues so these can be addressed with parents/carers and to enable individual risk assessments to be written where applicable.
Depth of water Risk of swimmer jumping or diving into deep/shallow water.	- Depths displayed in large print around the pool. 1.3m-2.3m. - Non-swimmer zone board in suitable location. - Lifeguard to always be vigilant and to ensure pool rules are always obeyed. - Parents/carers to supervise spectating children who are not in lessons/whilst waiting for their lesson to start.
Slips/Trips/Falls - Swimmers/parents/team members tripping on poolside equipment. - Slipping over in the changing rooms due to water on the floor.	- Lifeguard to ensure that all lane ropes and equipment are stored safe, the poolside is clutter-free, and the 'no running' rule is adhered to. - Lifeguard to ensure that the equipment boxes are tidy, and doors are shut during lesson times. - Team members are to regularly check and remove any excess water from the floor of the changing rooms. - The lifeguard is to be aware of any swimmers walking near the pool and to observe them. Enforcing pool rules.

• Non-swimmers walking around poolside unaccompanied.	• All team members remind swimmers to walk a safe distance from the edge of the pool, when appropriate. • Parents are made aware when booking the procedure to collect non-swimmers/flight risk children from their lesson on poolside promptly as the lesson ends. • Procedure for bringing children to their lesson and collecting them once the lesson has finished is outlined in the terms and conditions that is sent to all customers and FAQs on our website (mer-finswim.co.uk). • Should a child fall into the pool because of walking unaccompanied poolside, in-pool team and lifeguard are to react reasonably and promptly and give the appropriate first aid, if required. Lifeguard to complete an accident/incident report.
Training/Qualifications	• All unsupervised teaching team to hold a Swim England qualification or equivalent. • Team members who are undergoing teacher-training are to be supervised by a fully qualified Swim England level 2 or equivalent team member. • Lifeguards hold a valid lifesaving qualification. • All team members over the age of 16 have a valid DBS certificate.

	• In-pool/dry-side assistants are fully supervised if they do not hold Swim England or equivalent qualifications.
Non-swimmers, weak swimmers, and swimmers with disabilities • Higher risk swimmers more likely to receive injury or be at risk of drowning	• Children with disabilities are placed in an appropriate class or ratio, where they can receive suitable supervision. • Sections of the pool with an appropriate depth are used, considering the class ratio and swimming abilities of the swimmers. • Lifeguard to always supervise pool. • Any medical conditions to be written on the register and the teacher & lifeguard to be made aware prior to swimmers entering the pool. • Parents are required to make team members/swim school aware of any medical conditions via Swimphony prior to their first lesson. • Parents are required to make team members/swim school aware of any new medical conditions via email and on their Swimphony portal. • Parents are required to bring any medication along to each lesson.
Dunking, fighting, bullying, gymnastics, acrobatics, and boisterous games	• Lifeguards/swimming instructors to always reinforce pool rules.

• Injury caused through participating in non-allowed activities or practices	• Swim teachers to teach water safety and pool rules as part of lessons. • Where appropriate, assistants are to support swimmers who require additional supervision. • Swimmers actively breaking pool rules and creating risk are to sit out of lessons and teacher to reiterate rules. • Co-ordinator/manager to consult with parents/carers where necessary. • Teachers to be made aware of any restricted or unsuitable practices as advised by Swim England. • Teachers to deliver ability appropriate activities within the learn to swim programme.
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