

Introduction

This is the latest edition of our annual *Primary School Swimming in the Black Country* dataset, pulling together information from a range of sources including Key Stage 2 performance data and primary research conducted by Active Black Country and partners.

Key Stage 2 Swimming Measures

Schools should provide sufficient swimming opportunities to ensure all pupils make progress and achieve their very best in swimming and water safety. By all pupils this includes those with special educational needs, those with a disability or impairment and those whose first language is not English. The requirement is for all Year 6 pupils to meet the statutory minimum standard of capability and confidence in swimming and safe self-rescue, as set out in the national curriculum. The minimum requirement is that, by the time they are ready to leave Key Stage 2, every child is proficient across a number of key areas;

25m Proficiency



Every child, by the time they are ready to leave Key Stage 2 is able to swim confidently, competently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25m

Water Safety



Every Year 6 pupil should be able to demonstrate safe self-rescue and evidence this in different water-based situations.

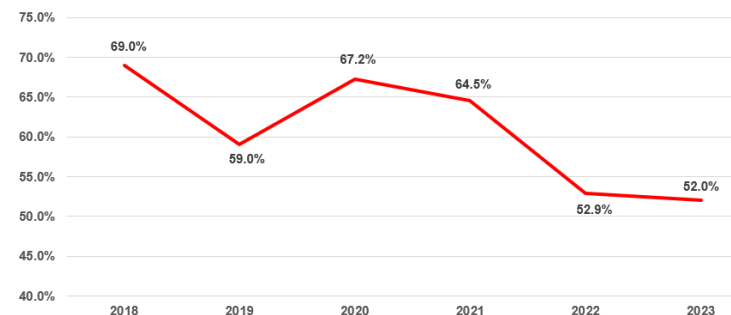
Pupils should also be able to demonstrably make choices about the strokes used to achieve different outcomes, evidence alternating and simultaneous strokes and adapt strokes for a range of outcomes. This dashboard will focus on the first two indicators

Active Black Country undertake desk-based research every year along with ongoing stakeholder engagement to collate information for all primary schools, providing us with a robust time-series dataset against which decisions can be made.

25m Proficiency



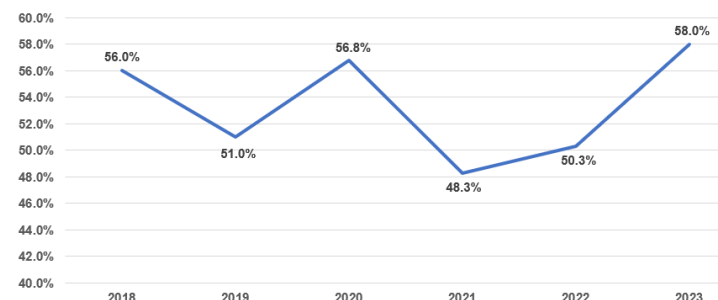
25m Proficiency in Walsall 2018-2023



Water Safety



Ability to Demonstrate Safe Self-Rescue in Walsall 2018-2023



% of Year 6 Pupils able to swim 25m

Walsall	52%
Black Country	51%

The number of pupils leaving primary school in Walsall who are able to swim 25m has fallen slightly over the last year, with levels remaining considerably lower than pre-covid levels.

Almost 5 in 10 pupils in the borough are finishing Year 6 without this important ability, equating to approximately 1877 young people.

% of Year 6 Pupils able to perform safe self-rescue

Walsall	58%
Black Country	52%

The proportion of Walsall primary school leavers who have been able to demonstrate safe self-rescue has increased to 58% in the last year, over and above pre-covid levels

The 42% of this cohort who didn't meet this criteria accounts for approximately 1729 young people in the borough.

Further Insight

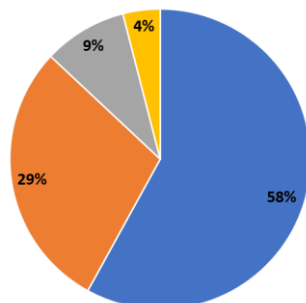


To supplement the Key Stage 2 swimming data, collated from information schools are required to publish on their websites, Active Black Country undertake an annual survey with primary schools to understand some of the context that underpins the numbers. This section provides a summary of the insight collated. **31** Walsall Primary Schools provided responses.

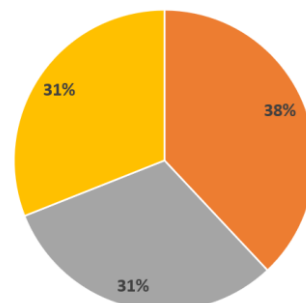
Learn to Swim

In total, the majority of Walsall schools (39%) do more than 25 hours of learn to swim whilst in Primary School, when taking into account dry side tuition and pool time.

Dry Side

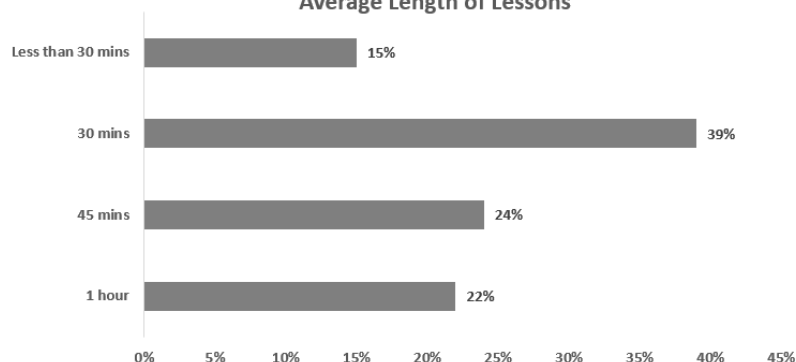


Pool Time



■ 0-5 hours ■ 6-15 hours ■ 16-25 hours ■ 25+ hours

Average Length of Lessons



Year in which schools start swimming lessons



Yr R-2: **14%** Yr 3: **24%** Yr 4: **26%** Yr 5: **26%** Yr 6: **10%**

Top Up Swimming

35% of Walsall Primary Schools intend to use PE and School Sport Premium funding for Top Up and Additional Swimming lessons. **23%** do not, whilst **32%** are undecided

Swimming Offer

68% of Walsall Primary Schools would like to increase the amount of in-water swimming that they currently offer to pupils. **42%** want to increase dry-side learning

Teaching Staff

59% Use their teaching staff to support swimming instructors carry out lessons
23% use their own teachers for swimming lessons

Good Practice

Pupils attending sessions at the leisure centre with a specially trained teacher have shown increased confidence and swimming abilities

A lot of non-swimmers now can swim safely in the water

Challenges

We need to reduce costs. Reduced pool costs. Currently paying £130.00 per hour of hire at a council ran leisure centre.

We need more funding to support swimming sessions and travel costs