

Teacher training to support SEND swimming

Background

Durham Trinity School & Sports College is a Lead Inclusion School representing County Durham for Inclusion 2020, a programme led by Youth Sport Trust and funded by the Department for Education.

By using the Swim England School Swimming Assessment Tool, Trinity was able to identify that teachers and swimming-qualified staff in County Durham lacked the confidence and some of the specialist skills to be able to teach swimming to pupils with SEND, and that there was a clear need for additional training in the area.

Objective

Trinity wanted to develop a new one-day CPD course that would equip their teachers with the knowledge and practical tools to be able to confidently deliver engaging swimming lessons to SEND pupils, whilst also improving their water confidence and core aquatic skills.

Challenges

- Securing the time of busy teachers and staff to attend training opportunities.

Approach

The Director of Sport at Trinity worked in collaboration with the Schools Aquatics Development Manager for Education Durham - Durham County Council, and they worked closely with Swim England to develop the new CPD course. The course was developed to support teachers and staff in delivering school swimming and water safety lessons to SEND pupils.

The working group put careful consideration into ensuring the theoretical content was relevant and that the practical element of the CPD course provided suitable applied experience for those attending.

The CPD was piloted three times with participating schools and swimming teachers, whose professional input has been fed into the final product.

Results

Teachers and support staff who attended the pilot CPD course have since shown greater confidence, knowledge and skills when delivering swimming lessons to their SEND pupils.



A successful partnership between the school, county council and Swim England was established. These partners now continue to work together to develop more high quality resources and teacher training to further support SEND pupils.


“Following attending the recent school swimming CPD pilot, school staff are more confident, knowledgeable and able to help and support pupils in lessons. This training is greatly helping us deliver better quality lessons and improve our pupils’ achievements.”

**Anonymous,
Swimming Teacher** 

Pupils have shown more engagement and enjoyment in their school swimming lessons

More effective learning for SEND pupils, supporting them to achieve the three national curriculum outcomes

Opportunity for teachers and staff to develop their confidence, knowledge and skills for supporting SEND swimming

 **Find out more:**

For more information, please contact schoolswimming@swimming.org or visit the Inclusion Hub at swimming.org/schools