

## **Swimming Information Update**

As you may be aware the government announced swimming pool facilities could reopen from 25th July 2020. While this is a generally welcomed announcement, for the delivery of school swimming lessons consideration has to be given to other current government restrictions which include transport, logistics (eg: guidance for swimming pool and changing room capacity) and health and hygiene procedures. Together these greatly impact on the ability to restart school swimming lessons across County Durham, and in other local authorities.

We are continuing to review guidance and participate in regular conversations with key partners and at the present time we are not in a position to resume the delivery of Durham County Council's National Curriculum School Swimming and Water Safety program at the start of the academic year, September 2020. We will strive to do so at the earliest opportunity within the 2020/2021 academic year, with a targeted restart of the programme scheduled for January 2021, dependent on many national and regional factors.

Whilst I understand the planning difficulties inherent in not providing a definitive start for County Durham's School Swimming program, I hope this will allow schools the time to adjust their PE curriculum for the autumn term. As soon as it is safe and practicable to restart County Durham's School Swimming and Water Safety Programme further information will be provided to schools.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Crane**  
**Head of Education and Skills**  
**Children and Young People's Services**