

Aquatic Survival Skills



Water Skills for Life 'Kaiako Led' Initiative Bay of Plenty Teachers FAQ

What do you have for us?

For those schools with pools, the national Water Safety New Zealand (WSNZ) <https://www.watersafetynz.org/> Water Skills for Life is the national standard for aquatic education in New Zealand primary schools. It is linked into the national education curriculum and gives children the skills and knowledge they need to assess risks and make smart decisions around water. The programme provides a multi-year level resource for teachers to teach water safety skills simply and confidently. This is supported by online training/professional development for teachers should they wish to pursue this.

Why are you doing this?

The simple purpose behind this is to get our national drowning rates down. School pools also don't necessarily teach swimming anymore and to utilise school pools for a reduced drowning rate, the WSNZ programme has been developed. Anyone can teach water safety if you have the content and understand the reasons behind the activities. Our purpose is to support teachers to develop and hone the skills to do this.

Who are you guys?



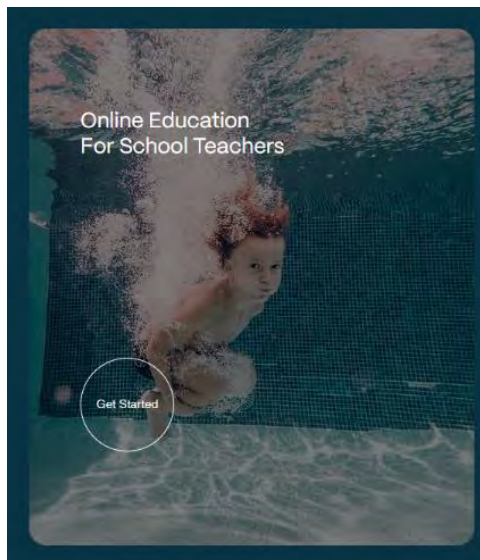
Aquatic Survival Skills Trust BOP <https://www.aquaticsurvivalskills.nz/> is an independent water safety Trust set up by Anne McLeod and Trustees. The Aquatic Survival Skills Trust provides life-saving water safety education for children. Our mission is to empower children with the knowledge and skills they need to feel confident and stay safe around water, whether they're in a pool, on a boat, at the beach, or by a river. We believe at a minimum all students year5/6 should leave primary school with an education program. The Trust runs a Bay of Plenty corporately funded (free to schools) water safety programme for years 5-6 that includes classroom and pool-based sessions. In 2023 the Trust is contracted to WSNZ to provide support to schools to run the national Water Skills for Life programme. The Trust employs qualified swim teachers and water safety instructors who have years of experience and really enjoy helping teachers to upskill in this area. Meet the team <https://www.aquaticsurvivalskills.nz/theteam>

What does our school get?





Aquatic Survival Skills educators will support teachers in allocated schools to learn and implement the Water Skills for Life resources with their classes. Aquatic Survival Skills educators will provide WSNZ resources, lesson plans and links to online materials/teacher training to schools and assistance to implement a simple 4 lesson water safety plan with each year group. By the end of the 4 lessons, teachers will be able to confidently teach the content and assess their students using the WSNZ criteria. This means that in following terms or years, your students water safety skill sets can be built upon as they grow.

What do we have to do?

1. Each teacher will need to provide your individual class lists with NSN numbers. (Using the WSFL template relevant to your year group please can you return this to info@aquaticsurvivalskills.nz)
2. Each teacher will need to *log on to the Water Safety New Zealand website* and complete the Teacher e-learning module relevant for your year group! <https://www.waterskills.org/solutions>



Once signed up you will be directed to Sport tutor to select the relevant e-learning module relevant for your year group!

	Water Skills For Life (Year 1-2) School Teacher E-Learning Available for an unlimited time Blended learning Online available when you want
	Water Skills For Life (Year 3-4) School Teacher E-Learning Available for an unlimited time Blended learning Online available when you want
	Water Skills For Life (Year 5-6) School Teacher E-Learning Available for an unlimited time Blended learning Online available when you want
	Water Skills For Life (Year 7-8) School Teacher E-Learning Available for an unlimited time Blended learning Online available when you want

The online platform visually shows teachers techniques/activities outlined in the lesson plans and is complimentary to the professional development experience, especially if you are wanting to become a teacher in your school that can lead, teach and support others in the WSNZ programme.

3. Each teacher will need complete the Kaiako self-assessment before your educator arrives to start the mentoring process. <https://www.waterskills.org/kaiako-led-evaluation> Password: Swimming
4. Aquatic Survival skills educator will give you a briefing at your school. Aquatic Survival Skills educators will provide teachers with year level lesson plans.
5. Teachers will need to *read over these and come prepared to each session ready to instruct* their students. Don't panic we will support you every step of the way if you don't feel confident with this.
6. After lessons – Mark on the excel sheet competency's your class students have achieved.
7. After lessons - Complete online survey 'Kaiako Led' mentoring sessions. <https://www.waterskills.org/kaiako-led-evaluation> Password: swimming also complete survey for Aquatic Survival Skills <https://www.aquaticsurvivalskills.nz/schoolfeedback>

What do you do if we are instructing?

Aquatic Survival Skill educators are there to guide and support teachers. We will help you to:

1. Plan and understand your lesson.
2. Get gear ready for each lesson if needed.
3. Provide 1-1 teacher support on poolside.

We may also run a smaller group of students and provide a mirroring experience for those less confident teachers on poolside. We also have access to lifejackets, something that many schools won't have to run part of the programme. Our educators are also great sounding boards to those tricky things like how to get kids to put their face in the water and top tricks and tips to get kids to float and learn water safety skills while having fun.

Who can attend?

Teachers, teacher aides, trainee teachers on placement and specialist workers are also invited to learn and join in the 4 sessions with your class. The more people that have these skills in a school – the better! We also understand that some students may need extra support either from the side of, or in the pool. Please ensure that any students with special needs have the support they require to have a positive experience in the pool.

Are we in the pool with our students?

No! 😊 Relax (and stay dry!) All instruction is given from the side of the pool. Teachers are not expected to get into the pool. Teacher aides/support staff are welcome to get into the pool with a student if needed.

Am I expected to teach swimming along with everything else I do as a teacher?

No! 😊 We understand how busy teachers are and that most teachers are not qualified swim teachers. The WSNZ programme gives teachers simple professional development opportunity to utilise their classroom time in the pool to develop survival skills, not technical swim skills. You will not be teaching butterfly! WSNZ know that the most effective way to reach our kids and stop them from being the next drowning statistic is to reinforce some key safety skills at school.

Can I have fun with my students or is it all skill based?

Yes! 😊 Fun is everything when you are learning and if you the teacher are having fun, your students will too.

The sessions are designed to learn a water safety skill set and then have a game, so the students get to have a lot of fun while learning something. Sometimes students will do something in a game that they won't do just by going back and forth across the pool. We aim to make this as painless and enjoyable as possible for both students and teachers!

From the Aquatic Skills Trust...

We look forward to working with you to run the Water Skills for Life programme successfully in your school.

Contact: Kent Horner

E: info@aquaticsurvivalskills.nz

T: +64272412818

Aquatic Survival Skills

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Aquatic Survival Skills Trust is committed to working in partnership with our customers and other PCBU's to ensure the protection of workers, property, environment, and other persons, including the general public, from accidental injury or damage by the work we perform.

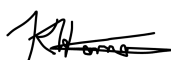
In meeting this commitment Aquatic Survival Skills Trust will comply with all relevant health and safety legislation, standards, and codes of practice, and take all steps so far as reasonably practicable to ensure that:

- There is health, safety, quality and environmental considerations in all aspects of our Trust.
- Our team, in consultation with workers, will establish a safe working environment, will work to identify, and manage reasonably foreseeable hazards, and enforce safe working practices.
- Our team, the environment, property, and all people, including the general public are protected from accidental injury or damage by the work we perform.
- We provide and maintain a safe and healthy working environment, safe systems and methods of work. We clearly define everyone's responsibility for health, safety, and environmental matters.
- All activities are carried out safely and without causing harm to fellow workers, contractors, customers, and the general public.
- We encourage all our team and other workers to participate and provide feedback on all health and safety matters.
- We provide all workers with information, training, and supervision that they need to work safely and efficiently to develop safety awareness among our team.
- We accurately report, record, and investigate workplace accidents, incidents, and notifiable events. All workers are encouraged to participate in accident investigation and post event learning teams.
- We support the safe and early return to work of injured team members.

This policy is communicated to all team members, and we make it freely available elsewhere. All of our team are responsible for implementing this policy. In addition, we're committed to ensuring all workers have a clear understanding of Health & Safety issues specific to their roles.

This policy is reviewed annually, and employees are made aware of any changes.

Kent Horner
General Manager
Aquatic Survival Skills Trust



Date: 10/10/2023

25 September 2023

Dear Principal,

We would like to extend our thanks for your continued support and active participation in the Water Skills for Life programme. Your dedication to this initiative ensures that your akonga (students) receive the essential support required to establish a lifelong connection to water while prioritizing their safety.

Water Safety New Zealand is the custodian of the Water Skills for Life programme. We are responsible for maintaining a 'fit for purpose' programme that ensures effective water safety education for primary aged tamariki. Our work is focussed on enhancing the capacity and elevating the quality of programme delivery to ensure that the programme delivers its intended impact and desired outcomes. Furthermore, we establish and maintain standards, offer guidance and resources to educational providers, and oversee the execution and results of water safety initiatives.

In the past, many schools were supported in this programme by Swimming New Zealand. These support arrangements have been revised and will be different for the coming year. These changes are designed to strengthen your relationship with local providers. You can anticipate contact from the relevant local provider in the near future, as they will be reaching out to discuss the specific arrangements for continued support.

In our ongoing efforts to enhance the programme, we have been actively engaged with the Ministry of Education on various initiatives. One of these initiatives pertains to the improved tracking of student achievement and learning throughout their participation in the Water Skills for Life program. To accomplish this successfully, we kindly seek your school's assistance in providing the National Student Number (NSN) of all akonga who are partaking in the program. These NSN numbers will be used exclusively within the Water Skills for Life database and will be handled with the utmost confidentiality, ensuring the privacy and security of all involved parties.

Incorporating the NSN into the class lists will enable Water Safety New Zealand to accurately track the individual development of students' water skills, contributing to comprehensive research on pedagogy and the long-term impact of water safety education on drowning statistics. This will also mean that reporting back to Kaiako on student achievement will be more meaningful.

For any further information or queries related to the program, please feel free to contact Esther Hone WSFL Interventions Lead, esther@watersafety.org.nz

Once again, we want to acknowledge the great work of your dedicated Kaiako (teachers) and express our gratitude for your continued commitment to your part in a successful Water Skills for Life programme.

Together, we are making a significant impact on water safety education and empowering our young learners with these crucial life skills.

Thank you for your unwavering support.

Noho ora mai

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Gerrard', is positioned above the printed name.

Daniel Gerrard
Chief Executive
Water Safety New Zealand Inc.