



Swimming Pool Risk Assessment

May 2025



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Step 1: What are the hazards?	Step 2: Who might be harmed and how?	Step 3: What are you already doing?	Step 4: What further action is necessary?
Risk of Drowning	Pupils/Customers (if they become unconscious or cannot swim properly). Staff (during rescue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lifeguards on poolside when in use• Lifeguards hold relevant qualification• Displaying safety signs• Children are not to be left unsupervised.• Lifeguard positioned to avoid glare. Stand near windows facing the water.	
Hard to Observe Areas: Swimmers getting into difficulty without the lifeguards knowing.	Pool users could be put at risk if they have difficulty swimming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lifeguards hold relevant qualification. Blind spots covered during NPLQ course.• Placing Lifeguard/s in appropriate positions around pool's edge.• Pool is rectangular with no obvious blind spots. Lifeguard position allows for all areas to be visible• Lifeguard: pool user ratio as defined in NOP's to be adhered to.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elevated lifeguard chair would help with visibility – Recommendation 1



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<p>Slips, Trips and Falls: Slippery changing room floors, spills on the floor, uneven surfaces, equipment on floor.</p>	<p>Pool users Staff Contractors Instructors All could be harmed if they trip over things left on the floor or slip on a wet surface.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cleaning up spills & ensure that equipment is stored properly.• Signage• All poolside edges are angled towards the external drains preventing water from pooling.• Staff wear sensible shoes• Shower area coated with non slip paint.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that equipment can be stored in a suitable receptacle• Change the colour of the pool edge so that people will know where the edge is.• Specialist cleaning products used to add a non-slip barrier.
<p>Electric Equipment: Electric shock could cause injury or death.</p>	<p>Customers, staff or works people could be harmed if equipment is misused or makes contact with water.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sockets located in the plant room• Poolside electric equipment running off 110v.• Pool vac (240v) kept in plant room when in use. Hose runs from plant room to poolside• Place sockets above floor level in plant room so they are less likely to get wet• Making sure wires are not trailing over the wet floor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Substitute electrical appliances for battery operated ones where possible
<p>Lifesaving equipment: Risk of not being easily located or accessed in case of emergency</p>	<p>Pool users in need of assistance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wall hooks to hold lifesaving equipment located around pool's edge• Duplicate lifesaving equipment spaced out around pool walls	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hooks with equipment labels to ensure even spread of equipment around pool walls.



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<p>Entry in to the pool: Jumping into shallow water or slipping on steps. Improper diving technique</p>	<p>Pupils/customers, particularly young children, could be injured if they tried to jump into the shallow end of the pool.</p> <p>Pool users could slip on metal pool steps.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Signage to be displayed explaining unsuitable for jumping into pool.• Shallow and deep end signage clearly displayed.• Pool depth signage displayed along length of pool• Supply handrails to help people get in and out of the pool• Teachers allow pupils to dive at deep end with permission• Diving blocks only to be used after being bolted in to the ground by the lifeguard/ teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide suitable & sufficient handrails for pool steps• Make sure the step treads are slip resistant
<p>Poolside Storage: Risk of toppling and entrapment in hinges if used improperly. Risk of toppling equipment if not stored correctly</p>	<p>Pool users or staff could be harmed if storage containers topple.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Storage containers locked when not in use to discourage improper use.• Appropriate storage container for equipment within.• Long handled equipment stored in appropriate areas around outside of pool.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Broken or damaged storage containers to be removed from poolside.• More wall hooks to store long handled equipment around poolside.
<p>Pool windows: Child safeguarding issue whereby people can view inside swimming pool from outside.</p>	<p>Pool users.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One-way coating has been applied to the bottom row of windows to prevent people looking in to the pool.• Parents of children participating in swimming lessons have been provided seating in the pool corridor	<p>n/a</p>



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<p>Poolside temperature: Risk of becoming uncomfortably hot during lessons</p>	<p>Staff, pupils without swimming kit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ventilation system in place.• Pupils without swimming kit are able to remove jumpers/ coats while on poolside so as to not overheat• Max time of poolside for staff members as per RLSS guideline: 60 mins.• Pool cover to remain on before start of first swimming lesson of the day to prevent unnecessary heat escaping the pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ventilation system to be serviced to ensure it is working efficiently.• Coating on glass to prevent direct sunlight heating poolside causing a greenhouse effect.• De-humidifier needs repairing/ replacing.
<p>Lone working: Risk of drowning. Risk of heat exhaustion if working for long periods of time.</p>	<p>Lifeguard during cleaning responsibilities, contractors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lifeguard max amount of time on poolside as per RLSS guidelines: 60 mins.• More than one member of staff needed during in-pool cleaning duties i.e. scum channels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schedule in-pool cleaning when more than one member of staff available.
<p>Swimmers out of comfortable depth: Risk of drowning.</p>	<p>Pool users, especially weak/non swimmers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All first-time users of the pool are assessed by the teachers before being split into groups based on ability.• Pool depth signs in and around pool.• Lifesaving equipment around pool in case of emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graphics on wall to represent where each group should stay.



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lifeguard/teacher to carry whistle to alert any swimmers straying from their ability group	
Pool Temperature: Risk of overheating during extended bouts of exercises if temperature too high. Risk of body temperature reducing if temperature too cold. Risk of increased humidity	Pool users, especially minors, staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pool temperature monitored by caretakers.• Pool cover stays on before first lesson of the day to prevent heat loss from the pool and minimise humidity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pool temperature standardised more regularly through the day if outside of acceptable parameters.
Pool Cover: Risk of becoming trapped under cover. Risk of injury due to hanging straps when cover is removed.	Pool users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Straps are moved out of the way after pool cover has been taken off the pool.• Cover to be taken off before pool users permitted on to poolside.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Straps to be removed from pool cover.• Pool cover to be used between classes where appropriate.

DATE OF ASSESSMENT:	May 2025	ASSESSOR: SSR, SSD, NDB
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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RISK REDUCTION

Action	By When	By Whom?	Completed
<p>1. Purchase Pool lifeguard chair</p> <p>A standard protocol in most pools these days, will allow on duty lifeguard/staff within the swimming pool area to clearly observe activities/any potential risks in or around the swimming pool.</p>	May 2025	NDB to organise through finance	May 2025
<p>2. Purchase Pool spinal/extraction board</p> <p>A standard protocol in most pools these days, will allow on duty lifeguard/staff within the swimming pool area to perform spinal injury rescues in or around the pool if ever required.</p>	May 2025	NDB to organise through finance	May 2025