



Children: Swimming and Life-saving Skills QSD on 6 March 2019

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials and press articles, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate:

Lord Storey to ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to improve the swimming and life-saving skills of children provided through schools.

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

Key Information

- Department for Education, '[Damian Hinds: Learning Life-saving Skills in School is Crucial](#)', 3 January 2019

Press release outlining the Government's plans for all children to be taught basic first aid in schools under proposals due to be introduced from 2020.

- Department for Education, '[Drive to Ensure All Children Can Swim by End of Primary School](#)', 25 October 2018

Announcement by the Department for Education and Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, in partnership with Swim England, to roll-out additional swimming lessons for schoolchildren, extra teaching and improved guidance, supported by the £320 million PE and Sport Premium.

- Swim England, '[Swim England Parents and Curriculum Swimming Research 2018](#)', 22 October 2018

Article detailing the findings of a survey to parents of children in reception, years 3 and 6 about their child's swimming ability.

- Curriculum Swimming and Water Safety Review Group, '[Recommendations to Ensure All Children Leave Primary School Able to Swim 2017](#)', 21 July 2017; and '[Swim Group Report to Improve Swimming and Water Safety in Schools](#)', 24 July 2017

Report by the Curriculum Swimming and Water Safety Review Group into the current provision of swimming and water safety lessons in primary schools; and the accompanying press release to the report, which provides a response to the report's publication by the then Minister for Sport and Civil Society, Tracey Crouch.

Parliamentary Debate, Statements and Questions

- A selection of written questions from both Houses: [HL13567](#) (18 February 2019); [219333](#) (14 February 2019); [HL12720](#) (16 January 2019); [196864](#) (3 December 2018); [155354](#) (27 June 2018); and [128870](#) (26 February 2018)
- [Oral Question on 'Cold Water Shock: Mandatory Teaching'](#), HC Hansard, 25 June 2018, col 592
- [Debate on 'Statutory PHSE Education'](#), HC Hansard, 6 February 2018, cols 468–92WH

Press Articles and Comment

- *Guardian*, '[Children in England to Be Taught CPR and Aid for Common Injuries](#)', 3 January 2019
- Harriet Agerholm, '[Private Schools Must Let State School Pupils Use Their Swimming Pools, Says Government](#)', *Independent*, 21 October 2018
- Emma Hammett, '[Should All School Children Receive First Aid Training?](#)', First Aid for Life, 28 January 2018
- Katie Morley, '[One in Three Primary School Leavers Can't Swim, Report Warns, Amid Rise in Drownings](#)', *Telegraph*, 24 July 2017
- Owen Gibson, '[Primary Schools That Fail to Teach Pupils to Swim 'Should Be Named and Shamed'](#)', *Guardian*, 5 November 2014

Further Information

- Swim England, '[Swimming and Water Safety in Schools](#)', accessed 27 February 2019
- Department for Education, '[Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education, and Health Education in England: Government Consultation Response](#)', February 2019
- National Water Safety Forum, '[A Future Without Drowning: The UK Drowning Prevention Strategy 2016–2026](#)', 16 February 2016

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