

Leamington Spa Amateur Swimming Club

ESTABLISHED 1885

Affiliated to: ASA West Midlands Region and Warwickshire County ASA

Chairman: Ms Rachel Saysell

Secretary: Ms Jill Wharfe

Treasurer: Mrs Dana Payne

Contact via: www.swimleamington.org

WELFARE NOTICE

The Coaches and Committee have received a letter from Warwick School highlighting a serious Child Protection issue. This was brought to their attention by staff and members of the public.

We are concerned to hear that some parents are continuing to ignore the Club's protocol about child welfare. We recognise that the vast majority of parents at this Club behave entirely responsibly and ensure their child/ren's safety at all times. However, there are reports that some swimmers are being dropped off in the car park for morning training before either a representative of LSASC has arrived, or even someone from Warwick School. Some parents drive off without checking that their child/ren has entered the building, that a coach or staff member is present, or that the session is going ahead.

There is a particularly alarming report of a 10 year-old boy wandering around the school grounds and the sports centre unattended and in the dark, before the building has even been unlocked.

This is inappropriate and unacceptable. LSASC is committed to ensuring the welfare of all our swimmers and we will not tolerate behaviour that jeopardises children's safety. I have reported these issues to the ASA welfare department who endorse the Club's concerns and have given advice as to how we should address this matter.

With immediate effect:

Morning training sessions

- For all children aged 12 or under – all parents must be present on poolside until their child/ren exits the changing room or the session starts. Anyone who comes on to poolside alone will not be allowed to swim. He/she will be required to get a towel or warm clothing and sit on the poolside in full view of the coach throughout the session until a parent comes to pick up.
- Any child who is discovered wandering unattended in the car park, school grounds or sports centre unattended, before a representative of the Club is present, will be banned from swimming at any morning sessions. The sports centre is open about 15 minutes before the morning session - no LSASC swimmer should be on site before this time.



Leamington Spa Amateur Swimming Club

ESTABLISHED 1885

Affiliated to: ASA West Midlands Region and Warwickshire County ASA

Chairman: Ms Rachel Saysell

Secretary: Ms Jill Wharfe

Treasurer: Mrs Dana Payne

Contact via: www.swimleamington.org

- If the minority of parents continue to drop off young children in the car park and drive off without ensuring their child/ren's safety, I will recommend that all morning training is withdrawn from the programme immediately.

In addition, Warwick School has requested the following behaviour for **all** training sessions:

- No swimmers should be on poolside unless there is a representative from the Club present who can take responsibility for their safety and behaviour.
- If there is not a representative from the Club available and no parent is present, the staff of Warwick school will not admit any children into the building.

This matter is extremely serious. The safety of children is the top priority for both Warwick School and LSASC. Anyone who disregards the points outlined is putting their child at risk. It is my professional and ethical responsibility to report any concerns about a child's safety or welfare to the relevant child protection authorities.

LSASC has responsibility for the swimmers at the point at which they come onto poolside. Before then, it is up to you, as a parent, to make sure your child/ren arrives safely onto poolside before **all** training sessions.

If anyone is unclear about any of the above, or wishes to discuss anything related to this email, please feel free to contact me at clubwelfare@swimleamington.org.

Thank you for your attention.

Deb Turner
Club Welfare Officer

