Swimming Program Policy

**Rationale:**
Water based activities are part of Australian culture and the ability to be safe around water is a life saving skill. Reducing the incidence of drowning relies significantly on water safety education and swimming ability. Children should learn to swim as early as possible, including water safety techniques such as floating, sculling or treading water and be able to respond to dangers in the water including warning others and attracting the attention of a nearby adult.

**Aims:**
To ensure that all school swimming programs are safely conducted and provide students with the skills and confidence to participate in aquatic activities.

**Implementation:**
- Swimming Programs will include a sequence involving swimming, water safety, survival techniques and rescue and emergency procedures.
- Gembrook Primary School will provide an annual swimming program to students in all year levels.
- Swimming tuition will be provided by qualified staff.
- At least two school staff will attend the swimming venue with the students attending for swimming tuition.
- The minimum ratio of qualified aquatic educators to students will be in line with DEECD policy and Gembrook Primary School will endeavour to provide a ratio of 1:7
- Students with infectious illness will be excluded from the swimming program.
- Parents of students that may be at risk while swimming due to medical conditions that involve loss of consciousness such as epilepsy, or breathing difficulties such as asthma, will be asked to provide the teacher with any additional management required to manage the medical condition in the swimming pool environment and aquatic activities.
- Emergency Management precautions that apply to aquatic programs will include
  - staff being prepared to perform an immediate contact rescue and CPR
  - positioning staff to account for all students in their respective swimming groups at all times
  - using a 'buddy' system as a check of student safety
  - aids such as ropes, poles and approved buoyancy devices are immediately available at each teaching venue
  - swimming programs are not conducted if the water temperature is low and there is a risk of hypothermia

Ratified in 2014
when students are undertaking aquatic education in an outdoor environment they are protected from excessive exposure to sunlight and the resulting sunburn with hats, sunglasses, protective clothing and sunscreen

**Evaluation:**
- Students are provided with the skills and confidence to participate in aquatic activities.
- All policies will be for 3 year review unless otherwise stated.

**References:**