

# SEND inflatable swim FAQs

**Q: I have a 5-year-old with additional needs and their sibling is 3 years of age. Can they both attend?**

**A:** Yes. Between the age of 5 to 16 years of age is quite a broad age range, especially when managing this within an excitable and potentially higher risk environment such as inflatables in a swimming pool. To minimize the risks, the main swimmer must be aged 5-16 years and have additional needs, but we will accept younger siblings as part of this pilot session. All learnings from this session will be considered and evaluated before redesigning future provision.

**Q: How many carer/ guardians/ parents can I bring to the session.**

**A:** We would prefer that a maximum of 2 adults to each individual can attend. This is so we can ensure as many young people as possible can benefit from the session whilst also keeping it a quiet and calmer environment than traditional inflatable sessions. Please see the Life Leisure swim policy for more info on the ratios.

**Q: What is the capacity?**

**A:** Under traditional circumstances, we would have capacity for 120 swimmers at any one time at Life Leisure Romiley. For this session, we have reduced the capacity by 50% to 60-65 people and this is over a duration of the 2 hour session, so these numbers will be slightly dispersed.

**Q: My child does not swim and is often excluded from using the inflatables – is that still the case for this session?**

**A:** No. As long as your child is wearing a swimming aid (armbands/swim vest) then they can use the inflatables. To enable this to happen, we have added additional lifeguards to the session, both in the pool and on the poolside as one of the steps to manage any associated risks.

**Q: Do I have to attend at 4.00pm?**

**A:** No. We purposely allowed a 2 hour swimming session as we understand that it can be a challenge to get everybody ready for 4.00pm. You can turn up anytime from 3.50pm onwards to get ready but please be aware that the previous swimming session finishes at 3.30pm so there may be some noise and additional people still getting dressed in the changing room which some may find too noisy. As long as people are leaving the pool by 6pm, then you can attend from 3.50pm onwards.

**Q: What floatation device should my child wear if they cannot swim or are a weak swimmer.**

**A:** Ideally a child should wear armbands and/ or swim vest floatation device. As it is likely that children will be falling off the inflatable, we would recommend for those non swimmers or older children, to potentially wear additional devices than what they might normally wear. We understand that some children may struggle with the sensation of wearing armbands and prefer the disc-style armbands and it may be that more of these need to be worn on the day. As example of what these look like can be found here We will provide additional disc-style armbands on the day but please be aware, we do not provide armbands.

**Q: Who are your staff?**

**A:** We will have Swimming Teachers and Lifeguards present both in and out of the pool to maintain a safe, welcoming, and fun environment for all. They are not however there as a substitute for an adult when our policy would require one or if you feel your child needs parent/ carer support in the pool.

**Q: How are you making this session more SEND friendly?**

- A:**
- Additional staff on the day so that non swimmers will be able to use the inflatables
  - Selected a Life Leisure hub which has a Changing Place on poolside to enable a more comfortable changing environment for those with more complex needs.
  - Opening both the main pool and small pool so that any age can enter either pool without worry of upsetting the child by being prohibited from access.
  - Turning off music and hair/hand dryers in the changing rooms.
  - Providing information on “what to expect” which will be shared with the participants and highlights some of sights, sounds, smells, and textures people can expect on the day.
  - Allow longer and more considerate transitions between people moving out of the way of the inflatable.
  - A range of water play toys will be available to help with the sensory experience.
  - Encouraging parents/ carers to be on poolside to support their child (if they can swim)
  - Reducing the maximum capacity by 50% to ensure the session is not too busy or overwhelming.
  - Having some general PEC boards in reception and on poolside to help with communication.