



Brentwood Leisure Trust

Swimming Pool Admissions:

Adult to Child Ratio Policy

All Children under the age of 8 **MUST** be accompanied by a responsible adult (16+).

Please note the Adult to Child ratios below for your safety in the water.

MAIN POOL

Ages 0-3

1:1



Ages 4-7

2:1



SMALL POOL

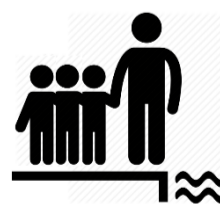
Ages 0-3

2:1



Ages 4-7

3:1



*Please turn over for more information about admission policies.



Questions parents ask about swimming pool policies?

I was turned away for turning up with too many children. Why is this?

It depends on the policy of the pool you are visiting. The number of children you have with you, the age of your children and their swimming ability.

Why do pool policies change?

They may have had an accident or an incident which alerted them to a problem. Or they may have just recruited new management staff who have taken a different approach to pool safety than previous managers. The change will probably be to ensure you and your children are safer than before.

The centre down the road has a different swimming pool policy. How can this be right?

All pools are different. It may be that at one pool the water is slightly deeper in the shallow end, or that there are sudden changes in depth or steeper slopes to the deep end.

It may be there are blind spots where the lifeguards cannot see all the bathers all the time, or they may have a history of more accidents to children swimming in their pools.

Each pool has to look at its own circumstances and undertake an assessment of the risks on site and the action necessary to control these risks. Admission policies help to reduce the risk of children getting into difficulty.

How many children can I take to the pool?

That will depend upon the pool. Each pool has its own risk assessment that will determine how many children you may take into the pool with you. The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA) is the leading national professional body for sport and recreational management in this country.

What has age got to do with it?

The influence of age is likely to be on swimming ability, height in relation to pool water depth, maturity, behaviour, and the understanding of risk. Younger children are less likely to recognise danger and to behave sensibly.

They are also less likely to be able to swim and are more likely to be smaller, making it easier for them to get out of their depth. If this happens, and they are not wearing armbands or accompanied by parents or guardians, they could drown.

I am a lone parent of three small children. How can I take them swimming in line with pool policy?

You need to talk to reception at the pool about times when they offer special family sessions targeted at parents in similar situations. You would find it very difficult to manage all three children on your own if they couldn't swim and weren't wearing armbands.

If they can swim well, or are wearing armbands, you could probably manage to safely supervise all three children. You would need to be in a designated non-swimmer area and your oldest able to stand up in the water.

How do I know how many children of what age I can take swimming if pools have different policies?

You need to ensure that before you take children to swim in a pool you have never visited you find out their admission policy on the times you can take your children to swim.

Why is this decision being made by someone who doesn't know my children or their swimming ability?

Pool operators have a legal responsibility to ensure the safety of their customers as far as is reasonably practicable. They need to carry out a risk assessment and put in place appropriate control measures.

They cannot pass that responsibility on to anyone else or be excused that responsibility by the parents. Even if you didn't sue in the event of an accident, they could be prosecuted in the criminal courts.