



**Asfordby
Captain's Close**
Primary School

Consultation of Captain's Close School Training Swimming Pool



October 2021

Introduction

It is thought that the training pool at Captain's Close Primary School was established in the 1970's and has received limited repairs over the years. The facility is not a full adult size swimming pool; it has a shallow depth of 0.8m inclining to a deep end of 1.1m. Its dimensions are L x 12m W x 5.5m and is considered a training pool.

The school and its premises officer have done an excellent job in ensuring the water quality and cleanliness is in place so children can use the facility safely. However, evaluating the ongoing operational & risk management, revenue and capital costs and actual educational benefit to children, it is necessary for Discovery Schools to undertake a review and period of consultation.

Areas considered in undertaking the review

Educational benefit

Whilst it considered an educational benefit to have a training pool on the school site, it takes significant staffing resources as only fifteen children can use the facility at any one time, which requires additional staff to facilitate the swimming sessions. There are local alternative arrangements that are possible where whole class groups can learn together and receive differentiated and specific instruction relevant to their needs.

Potential alternative swimming provision for Captain's Close children

The school has made enquiries with other local primary schools about their swimming provider and other local schools choose to use the swimming facilities at Waterfield Leisure Centre. They do not choose to use the Captain's Close pool due to the lack of changing facilities and toilets and because the pool does not have a standard size for teaching pupils to swim widths and lengths.

Waterfield Leisure Centre is approximately four miles away from the school and there is available space which the school can book and use. This will allow for a whole class to swim at the same time, therefore reducing the impact on children's learning and timetabling and will ensure that they can be assessed against the National Curriculum criteria to swim 25 metres by the end of Year 6.

Current condition

We consider the current condition of the pool is not fit for purpose and requires significant investment. The building does not have shower facilities, toilets or any changing facilities. Outside providers will no longer be able to access any toilets that are within the school grounds due to the new fencing. Given the type of roof surround, often the environment cannot reach suitable temperature for a swimming pool and the rain often leaks into the pool and causes the balance of the water PH to need adjusting.

The lack of facilities has meant that during the COVID -19 crisis, the pupils and community members have been unable to use the facilities as the Risk Assessment for the pool is not viable. This has resulted in community swim schools to need to seek alternative provision during the pandemic. During the 'second lock down' the pool was drained to enable essential repairs to take place and lower energy costs.

In the Summer of 2019, the heater fan stopped working. The temperature dropped and created an unsuitable environment for swimming. The pool had to close for 6 weeks during the Autumn 2019 for the heater fan to be replaced at significant cost to the school and Parent and Teacher Association. This is just one of many repairs that will be needed in the future to maintain the pools conditions.

Additional funding available

It has been explored with Swim England and other potential funders whether there any grants are available, however there is nothing that the Trust can apply for at this time. The Trust has commissioned architectural feasibility studies for a total 'repair and renovate' of the facility. The total estimates cost was £170,000 of capital investment to bring the pool to a suitable standard. It is important to note that this was carried out 'pre covid' and would likely be higher. This quote does not include the ongoing running costs or any future maintenance.

FAQs

Why is the trust consulting on the pool when the community see it as an asset?

We appreciate that there is a strong historic and sentimental attachment to the pool and until recently, the pool has been used frequently by the school and the community. Discovery Trust understands and values the educational benefit of swimming and the importance on children having access to learn to swim as part of their primary school experience. However, the reality is that the training pool incurs significant costs both in maintenance and future capital costs. Alongside this, we do not consider it to be the best use of public monies which could be used to make other improvements to the education and sporting facilities for the benefit of Captain's Close children, especially when there is an alternative pool a short drive away.

Is it a forgone conclusion that it will close?

No. Discovery trust is committed to undertaking a full and meaningful consultation with our community seeking alternative ideas to raise funds. The consultation and its outcome will be open and honest. As a result, there may be other outcomes or suggestions that come from stakeholders which we have not considered, and we will look at them in further detail.

What would happen to the pool if it was to close?

At this time no decision has been made with regards to the facility but in any event the space would seek to be developed for sports activities for all children, subject to local planning permissions.

What mitigating factors would the trust/ school put in place to ensure sporting provision is not adversely affected?

In the event of closure, the children would still receive more than the DfE required amount of swimming instruction, and this would be delivered at Waterfield swimming pool.

What would the alternative swimming provision look like?

A private hire bus would take the children to Waterfield pool and bring them back. The Swimming instructor would be able to determine the abilities and confidence of individual children due to it being a full-size pool. Our proposal is that children in years 2, 4 & 6 would swim for two 6-week blocks during the year.

Would parents be asked for contributions for swimming classes?

Yes, parents would be asked to contribute but as with all educational activities that take place during the school day, this would be a voluntary contribution and no child would be excluded from taking part if payment was not received. We expect the cost to be in the region of £2.50 which is similar to the contribution parents pay for onsite swimming.

Does this consultation have the support of the school's Advisory Board?

Yes, and the school's Advisory Board have been and will continued to be kept informed. The Advisory Board which is made up of members of the community have discussed the future of the pool at length and can understand why the Trust needs to consider the facility's long-term future.

Why are you not proposing a school/parent meeting on such an important decision?

Due to the current situation because of Covid –19 it is not safe or permissible to hold meetings face to face currently. Therefore, we would ask that you share your views and ideas using one of the channels below.

The consultation period runs for 6 weeks from Thursday 21st October to Friday 3rd December 2021. We very much want to hear your ideas and alternative solutions. The Discovery Board will review in detail the consultation responses and will decide on its future.

Ways to respond:

Please fill in our consultation form online <https://forms.office.com/r/h9Hk5VESwA>

Alternatively, you can email your response to consultation@discoverytrust.org

Write to us at;

FAO Captain's Close Pool consultation
Discovery Schools
NSPCC National Training Centre
3 Gilmour Close
LE4 1EZ

Thank you

<p>Paul Stone, Trust Leader, Discovery Schools</p> 	<p>Sarah Sadler, Executive Headteacher of Captain's Close Primary School</p> 	<p>Nathan Odom, Head of Estates, Discovery Schools</p> 
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