



Case Study

Percy Shurmer Primary Academy **Birmingham**

We have absolutely loved having the swimming pool at our school. It has been a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to develop their confidence in the water, improve their swimming skills, and enjoy a unique experience right on our doorstep. The smiles, laughter, and progress we've seen over the past weeks have been incredible, and it's been a joy to provide this life-saving skill to so many of our children.

Sharon Burke

Headteacher

Percy Shurmer Academy needed a **safer, more reliable solution for swim lessons**. Their closest option was an old council pool, often closed for repairs. When it was open, 30 children learned from just two instructors, and **the quality of teaching was below the schools expectations**.

When another school recommended the benefits of a pop-up pool, **Swim:ED outshone competitors with a best-value programme**, focused on children's safety and progress. The leadership team were impressed with the simple onboarding process, featuring clear expectations, helpful information, and **regular updates from start to finish**.

The Swim:ED programme welcomed 170 children from Percy Shurmer's SEND provision and Years 4, 5, and 6. Because **many children were non-swimmers or didn't swim regularly outside school**, the Academy's primary goal was to strengthen pupils' confidence in and around water.

After a half-term of daily small-group lessons, **children's swim abilities, water safety awareness, and overall engagement sky-rocketed**. Pupils able to swim 25 metres unaided shot from 3% to 34% – accelerating by 1,033%. The proportion of children demonstrating safe self-rescue knowledge surged 152% from 27% to 68%.

'Swim:ED had a positive impact across the school – and better attendance was an unexpected bonus'. PE Lead Rob Gray explains:

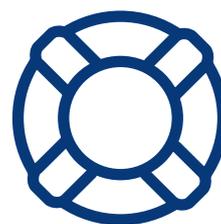
'The children developed a real passion for swimming, and we noticed improved attendance for classes involved in Swim:ED.'

'Children were more enthusiastic, and there was a **real sense of excitement about swimming throughout the community**. At the beginning of the programme, many were uncertain about taking part. But after six weeks of Swim:ED, they loved it and now can't wait for it to return next year.'

The programme also fostered courage and resilience. One lower Key Stage 2 pupil initially refused to bring his kit due to worries about swimming. However, once Swim:ED teachers had shown him the pool and answered his questions, he decided to give it a try. Following his first lesson, he made significant progress and now looks forward to swimming – and is more confident in water.

For teachers, **Swim:ED freed up valuable planning and learning time**. With facilities just steps from the classroom, additional staff were no longer needed to walk children to the pool to meet ratio requirements. Swim:ED instructors took full control, and pupils never had to miss their time in the water.

Looking ahead, the team at Percy Shurmer Academy anticipate an increase in the number of children who can swim 25 metres, as well as a **lasting love of swimming among pupils**.



152% boost in water safety

Water safety knowledge advanced from 27% to 68%.



25m grew by 1,033%

Children able to swim 25 metres unaided jumped from 3% to 34%.