

Bristol Henleaze Swimming Club Changing Room Policy

This policy is based on Swim England’s Wavepower (https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/wavepower-child-safeguarding-for-clubs/)

**Duty of care to swimmers in changing facilities**

* + - 1. Under the duty of care to safeguard members, the club and parents/guardians have a joint responsibility for the wellbeing of childing in the changing rooms.
      2. Parents/Guardians of children under the age of 8 years old must remain within the pool area for the duration of the swimming session.
      3. Parents/Guardians of children with additional needs should agree with the coach where they will be during the session.
      4. While the children are training, they remain under the responsibility and care of coaches/teachers.
      5. Parents/Guardians should be at the venue at the end of the session to take over the responsibility of their child once they leave poolside.
      6. Parents/Guardians should not be alone in the changing room whilst children are changing, unless their child is of an age where help is required from parents/guardians or if the child requires additional specific assistance. This is generally at an age stipulated by the pool operator (age 8 for the majority of the pools we use). In circumstances where children are of an age where assistance is required the parent/guardian must be the same gender as the child unless the facility has family changing facilities or is a mixed changing village.

**Changing facilities at venues used by the club**

1. Clifton High School has separate sex changing rooms and showers and an area for parents/guardians to assist younger children where they are not the same gender as the child
2. Horfield Leisure Centre is a mixed changing village shared with the public
3. Bristol University pool has separate sex changing rooms and showers

**Swimmers conduct whilst using changing facilities**

1. Swimmers must respect the privacy of others in the changing rooms.
2. The use of mobile phones or other devices capable of capturing images or video in the changing rooms is not permitted under any circumstances. Any person seen using a mobile phone in the changing rooms must be reported to pool management immediately and the club Welfare Officer informed. If there is a suspicion that a device could have been used to capture images or video the club **must** report this to the police and Swim England as per Wavepower policy.
3. The club has high expectations of behaviour and language of its swimmers in the changing rooms. Every club member is required to be responsible and respectful to all users/valuables/premises and not cause disruption.
4. Swimmers should change in cubicles where provided, not open changing areas.

**Responsibility during a club session**

1. While a child is training or being taught, they remain under the responsibility and duty of care of the person who is teaching or coaching them at that time.
2. If a member goes out of the pool area, the coach or teacher should be aware of this. If the child fails to return within a reasonable time, or appears to be upset leaving the poolside, the coach/teacher should request a suitable official to check on them. It Is best practice for two persons to look for the member (the second person could be a senior member or a parent/guardian).
3. If a complaint is received about an incident that has occurred in the changing room between a member of the club and any other person, the club has a duty to act upon that concern as appropriate.
4. Where a swimmer’s pool behaviour becomes unacceptable or impinges on the safety of others, that swimmer will be asked to leave the session, the parent will be contacted and the swimmer will remain poolside until collected.

This changing room policy applies to all Swim England regulated activity. Where swimmers attend other pools (e.g. to attend a gala) additional rules may apply.