

Inter School Swimming Gala 27th June 2025

At Aston Rowant School, curriculum enrichment plays a vital role in bringing learning to life beyond the classroom. In line with Ofsted's focus on a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum, we are committed to providing high-quality enrichment opportunities that develop pupils' physical, social and personal skills while complementing our core curriculum.

One such opportunity is our upcoming Inter-School Swimming Gala, taking place on Wednesday 25th June, where pupils from Years 3 to 6 will represent their schools in a structured and inclusive sporting event alongside local schools including Mill Lane, John Hampden, Tetsworth, Aston Rowant, Barley Hill and St Andrew's.

Curriculum Intent

Swimming is a key part of the National Curriculum for Physical Education, and this enrichment opportunity supports our intent to ensure pupils become confident, competent and enthusiastic participants in physical activity. The gala allows pupils to apply the skills taught in lessons - such as front crawl technique, stamina, teamwork and race awareness - in a competitive yet supportive environment. It also aligns with our wider curriculum goals of promoting healthy lifestyles, resilience, aspiration and sportsmanship.

Curriculum Implementation

Pupils from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will take part, with boys and girls equally represented across all year groups. Each school will enter swimmers into individual races and a variety of mixed relay events, ensuring inclusivity and teamwork. The event structure has been carefully organised to prioritise safety, fairness and pupil confidence, with clear routines for arrival, changing, warm-up and race briefings.

The format of A and B heats ensures that all participants are actively involved, regardless of experience or attainment level. This reflects Ofsted's emphasis on inclusive practice and equality of opportunity, allowing pupils to challenge themselves while feeling supported.

Curriculum Impact

The impact of experiences such as the swimming gala goes far beyond physical development. Pupils develop:

- Confidence and self-belief through representing their school
- Teamwork and communication skills through relay events
- Resilience and perseverance by competing and learning from outcomes
- Positive attitudes towards physical activity, supporting long-term health and wellbeing

Participation certificates will be awarded to acknowledge effort and commitment, reinforcing the message that personal progress and participation are valued, not just winning. Pupils regularly report increased motivation and pride following events like this, which positively influences their engagement back in the classroom.

Personal Development and Cultural Capital

This enrichment opportunity also supports pupils' personal development and cultural capital, another key area of Ofsted inspection. For some children, competitive sporting events are new experiences; taking part helps broaden horizons, build independence and develop social skills that will benefit them throughout their education.

