

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS RE: THE ROUNDHILL ACADEMY SWIMMING POOL

Why don't pupils make more use of the swimming pool?

We only have time in the curriculum to cover swimming for pupils in years 7 and 8 in the Autumn and Spring terms; that leaves a large proportion of pupils never making use of it.

Why is it costing BEP £5k p.a. to subsidise it?

Because of the health and safety and risks associated with running a pool, we have to ensure that every I is dotted and every T is crossed before any one is allowed to use it. For example, we had to invest a significant sum on automatic chemical dosing for the pool not so long ago to prevent the premises officer having to treat the water with canisters of acid and chlorine with its potential risks to them and to users. With an old facility like this, there are always things that need renewing too and the usage of the facility simply doesn't justify it.

How many community groups use it?

Approximately half a dozen on Wednesday afternoons and evenings and weekends

Why haven't you promoted it to see if you can make it break even?

It is outdated, a 15m pool rather than today's normal 25m pools, we have limited car parking space to be able to accommodate visitors to the pool. Facilities are limited, no café, small changing rooms etc. so it can't really take more people at each session.

Why do you want to close it?

We feel strongly that the Academy is there to benefit its 840 pupils, with their wellbeing, teaching and learning as our big priorities. Running a swimming pool which most pupils don't use is not a core activity for a school.

What's going to happen to the community groups who use it?

We convened a meeting with the leaders of all community groups who use the pool, to explain our situation and we have signposted them to the other more suitable pool facilities in the area. When we had to temporarily close the facility whilst the chemical dosing machinery was installed, those groups had to find alternative premises and did so successfully. We hope this will be the case now that we have to close permanently.

How much notice are you giving everyone?

The reason we are making the announcement now is to give users enough time to find alternative facilities.

What is the closing date?

The Academy closes for the Easter break on Friday 8th April 2022 and the pool will close on Thursday 14th April. Work will then take place over the Summer to create The Roundhill Academy's new covered outdoor area for the children in time for the Autumn term.