

Fancy a swim?

Activity sheet – The drowning problem (statements)

- Wherever someone is in, on or near water, the potential for drowning exists.
- The risk of death due to drowning is 0.8 per 100 000 people in the UK each year.
- About 250 people die at inland water sites each year.
- The coastal and inland waters of the UK remain cold throughout the year, even during the warmest summer months.
- Coastal and inland waters are often deep and frequently have strong currents.
- The survival time is limited for anyone who gets into difficulties in cold water.
- Weak or non-swimmers may survive for only a few seconds in cold, deep or fast flowing water.
- Competent swimmers or those acclimatised to cold may be able to get out of the water alive, although they may simply take longer to drown.
- More than half of the people who drown can swim.
- A person in difficulties in the water can never rely upon being rescued.
- Some rivers and streams contain high levels of bacteria from sewage contamination.