

MAKING WAVES

James Male, the head of fundraising at The Swimming Trust, explains how the charity is helping to break down barriers to swimming participation.



It's a well-known fact that there is a shortage of swimming teachers across the country. Because of this, around 400,000 people could be missing out on swimming lessons nationwide but the Swimming Trust is

playing its part in helping to find solutions to the problem.

Established in 1996, the Swimming Trust is an independent charity that is dedicated to getting more people swimming more often in safe and supportive environments.

The Trust knows that swimming, whether for leisure or for sport, provides the ideal environment to develop skills that will benefit individuals throughout their lives. It provides a foundation for a healthy lifestyle, good teamwork, focus and a spirit of fair play. There is no age barrier to swimming and all members of the family, irrespective of ability or disability, can enjoy it.

But there are groups and individuals who are likely to miss these opportunities without help from the Swimming Trust.

Our aim is to identify barriers to participation, whether they are physical, cultural or financial, so that more people can enjoy the wide ranging benefits of swimming.

Our Swimming Teacher Development Programme helps young people from hard-to-reach, vulnerable, BAME and disadvantaged groups. The programme gives young people opportunities to gain nationally-recognised qualifications (Swim England Level 1 Swimming Assistant and Swim England Level 2 Swimming Teacher) to help them find a career in swimming.

The programme has three main objectives:

- Provide new employment opportunities
- Get more people swimming
- Improve health and wellbeing in communities through swimming.

Through our Swimming Teacher Development Programme we have helped more than 400 candidates complete their training as a result of 21 projects that we have run over the last five years.

We are continuing to grow with schemes about to start in Leicester, Sheffield and Leeds and new projects planned for Newham, Derby, Coventry and a second project in Luton. With each programme we build close partnerships with funders, local authorities, pool operators and other local organisations and each scheme is unique

with the community at its centre – we also work side by side with Swim England and the Institute of Swimming.

For the candidates the skills they develop are in demand and, for many, these provide an opportunity to find work and help their families – as well as ensuring more people are learning how to swim.


The Swimming Trust has the ability to deliver many more

“The Trust aims to identify barriers to participation, whether they are physical, cultural or financial, so that more people can enjoy the wide ranging benefits of swimming.”

programmes and is only limited by being able to raise the money needed for each scheme.

The cost of training 14 candidates to become qualified swimming teachers is £14,200. We raise this through a combination of charitable donations from local organisations, individual supporters and candidate contributions.

As a charity, we can help businesses and individuals support local communities and can make sure that donations are targeted to where they are needed.

With your help, we can ensure more and more people benefit from a lifetime of swimming. 



To find out more about the work of the Swimming Trust, or to make a donation to the charity, visit swimmingtrust.com



To find out more about starting a Swimming Teacher Development Programme in your community, email James Male, the Trust's head of fundraising, at james.male@swimming.org



Or call James on **07824629083**

