



Coastguard Boating Education's Safe Boating initiative is reaching children by coming ashore and working with aquatic centres nationwide to get survival messages across. We are aiming to turn primary and intermediate school children into safety ambassadors, with the goal that teaching them how to be safe on the water will save their lives and the lives of others for decades to come.

Coastguard Boating Education (CBE) partners with aquatic centres, outdoor adventure companies and camps to train instructors; and the centres then invite schools to participate in the programme. Children are taught about skipper responsibility – what safety equipment they should expect to see on a boat – and survival skills in case they end up in the water.

Since July 2014 over 65,000 certificates have been awarded to children who have successfully completed the Safe Boating programme. CBE is progressively rolling out the programme across the country, with 31 aquatic centres and four outdoor adventure companies already delivering the programme.

We are training swim instructors with professional boating safety training and equipment so we can reach thousands of children through their local swimming pool. It doesn't matter whether the children are swimmers or non-swimmers – the programme benefits them all.

The programme involves a practical lesson including teaching the students how to fit their own life jackets and the importance of wearing life jackets all the time whilst on a boat. The programme also teaches skipper responsibility and the safety equipment that should be carried on any boat, including two waterproof ways to call for help. Students are taught in-water survival positions and what to do in the event of capsizing in a fun, controlled and safe manner.

Each centre's safety gear is audited to identify what equipment may be needed, with CBE sourcing community funding and sponsorship to supply extra gear if required.

For more information about Coastguard Boating Education's Safe Boating Programme and to find out what's happening in your area, contact Sarah Psaila via email: [safeboatingboatingeducation.org.nz](mailto:safeboatingboatingeducation.org.nz) or phone 0800 40 80 90.