

Kennington Primary School

Competitive Sport Policy

1. Introduction

At Kennington Primary School we believe that competitive sport plays a vital role in the physical, social, and emotional development of our pupils. This policy sets out our rationale for competitive sports, the criteria for selecting pupils for different sports and competitions, and the expectations for behaviour and adherence to school values.

2. Rationale for Competitive Sport

Competitive sport at Kennington Primary School aims to:

- **Promote Healthy Lifestyles:** Encourage physical fitness and well-being.
 - **Develop Life Skills:** Instil values such as respect, resilience, teamwork, and independence.
 - **Build Character:** Teach pupils to handle both success and failure with grace.
 - **Increase Engagement:** Provide opportunities for all pupils to participate and enjoy sporting activities.
 - **Foster Community Spirit:** Encourage collaboration and pride in representing the school.
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3. Maximising Participation

We are committed to providing opportunities for as many pupils as possible to engage in sports, ensuring inclusivity and enjoyment. Our strategy includes:

- Offering a range of sports suitable for different skill levels and interests.
 - Hosting intra-school competitions to encourage wider participation.
 - Organising clubs and training sessions to develop pupils' skills.
 - Keeping and updating a register of participation on a regular basis in order to track the number of individual children taking part in sporting activities and to ensure wide participation across school.
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4. Criteria for Selection

Selection for competitive sports and external competitions is based on the following:

1. **Adherence to School Values:**

- **Respect:** Showing respect for coaches, teammates, opponents, and the rules of the game.
- **Resilience:** Persevering through challenges and setbacks.
- **Teamwork:** Collaborating effectively with others and prioritising the team's success over individual gain.
- **Independence:** Taking initiative to practice and improve skills.

2. **Commitment:** A positive attitude towards improvement and regular attendance at training sessions (if provided).

3. **Behaviour and Discipline:** Pupils must adhere to the school's behaviour policy, expectations and values.

4. **Skill and Potential:** Pupils demonstrating skill, effort, or potential in a specific sport.

5. **Specific Sports Teams:** Some teams will be selected based on the individual fixture or competition. For instance the school U11 football team, U11 TAG rugby team or U11 Cricket Team. These teams will be selected first from the Y6 cohort. If places are still available, pupils may be chosen from the Y5 cohort dependent on attitude and ability. These Y5 cohort places will be rotated to give experience ready for Year 6. For a minority of competitive matches, the strongest team possible will be selected. These will usually be cup competition fixtures and will be based on the opposition being faced.

5. Rationale for Non-Selection

Non-selection for competitive sports may occur due to the following reasons:

1. **Behavioural Concerns:**

- Persistent breaches of the school's behaviour and discipline policy.
- Lack of respect towards peers, staff, or opponents.
- Not adhering to the school's expectations in class and on the playground.

2. **Non-Adherence to School Values:**

- Disregard for the values of respect, resilience, teamwork, and independence.

3. **Commitment Levels:**

- Lack of effort whilst competing during competitions, training sessions or PE lessons

4. **Development Needs:**

- When the level of competition is too high for a child's ability or skill level as determined by the member of staff leading the team.

We will always communicate non-selection decisions sensitively to children, providing constructive feedback and encouraging pupils to remain engaged with the sport. As we endeavour to ensure that as many children who wish to participate in competitive sport as possible, registers will be kept to allow different children to participate in different events across the year.

6. Support for All Pupils

To ensure that every pupil feels valued, we will:

- Provide feedback and guidance for improvement.
 - Celebrate participation and effort in non-competitive settings.
 - Offer alternative opportunities for involvement in sport through inclusive events and fun days.
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7. Communication with Parents and Carers

We will ensure transparent communication with parents and carers regarding selection processes and decisions. Parents are encouraged to support their children in understanding the importance of values, effort, and commitment.

8. Review and Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it aligns with the school's mission and values and continues to meet the needs of our pupils. Feedback from pupils, staff, and parents will be considered as part of the review process.

Signed:

S. Pritchard

11th December 2024

This document outlines a balanced approach to competitive sport, ensuring fairness while upholding the school's core values.