

St John Fisher RC Primary School

Team Selection Policy



"Every child has the right to an education." Article 28.

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Team Selection Policy 2025 – 26

At St. John Fisher our sporting philosophy throughout the school is to encourage children to enjoy all aspects of PE; whether it is competitive or creative, individual or team based. This helps and encourages them to play or participate in sports throughout their lives, bringing many proven benefits both physically and socially.

All pupils experience competitive and non-competitive sports internally at school; playing matches within lessons, participating in school intra/inter competitions and at wider sports events.

Since the introduction of the School Sports Premium, school benefits from the ability to work in partnership with the Merton Schools Sports Partnership (MSSP). As a school we enter many matches, festivals and tournaments (both competitive and non-competitive) organised by MSSP and all the staff involved recognise the need to work towards an inclusive approach that enables as many pupils as possible to experience competitive sport, in some cases representing the school.

Selection for team events is based on:

- Level of skill demonstrated
- Level of fitness
- Understanding of games, tactics and rules
- Emotional maturity to cope with the pressure
- Performance, effort and behaviour in lessons and practices
- Commitment to training and learning
- Attitude of the player on and off the field of play
- How the player presents themselves, manners, helpfulness, sportsmanship, etc.
- Performance of the play as a team player
- Enthusiasm to learn to improve
- Understanding of the importance of safety

For certain events, not all, the children need to attend trials. The pupils with the best results/performance represent the school as long as they also fulfil the criteria stated in our 'team selection'. We select the most appropriate teams to represent the school in relation to the standard of competition/opposition. Teams can be selected taking into account both merit and/or inclusivity based on the nature of the competition. We encourage children to attend trials to showcase their skills and continue to maintain a positive attitude during PE and Games lessons.

Trials are open to all children who fit within the team requirements for each individual competition. At times where attendance in trials are high, we may run additional trials to allow fair selection.

It is made clear to pupils that being chosen to select St. John Fisher at these events is privilege not a right. Therefore, if a pupil's conduct in and around school (both inside and outside of the classroom) does not reach the expected standards, they may jeopardise their team selection to attend the event.

Throughout the year, we are provided opportunities to attend 'Development' competitions or 'Festivals'. For these events, we will aim to select pupils who regularly attend trials and/or those who we believe would enjoy and benefit from the opportunity to represent the school and develop their skills.

Role of Parents and Carers

We would like to thank parents and carers in advance for supporting us as follows:

- If your child is regularly chosen for a team, please help them to understand it is a privilege to represent the school and they should be proud of themselves.
- If your child is not chosen, encourage them to keep attending trials and enjoy what they do; they are still part of the success of their teammates.
- At all times it is important that the pupils understand that it is important to win and lose gracefully whatever level of competition.
- If your child is chosen, they should be supportive to the other children who may not have made the team and demonstrate positive sportsmanship.

Parents, carers and spectators have a great influence on the children's enjoyment and success in sport. Children play sports first and foremost because they love playing. St John Fisher is dedicated to nurturing that enjoyment and enthusiasm for sport and as a foundation for developing skills and tactics for life.

Code of Conduct

At St John Fisher we are committed to the MSSP '**Refspect**' programme.

We expect all players, coaches, supporters and parents to support the principles outlined in the documents below. Failure to do so may result in a player being taken out of an event or not re-selected for future events.

In the case of a parent or carer not respecting the guidelines below, it may result in a parent/carer being asked to leave the event and/or school requesting that no parents or carers attend such future events.

SPECTATORS, PARENTS AND CARERS

It is imperative that our children have positive experiences within our sport events which lead them to:

- continue to take part in sport
- reach their potential through sport
- lead healthy and active lifestyles
- HAVE FUN!

As a spectator I will:

- R**emember that children play for fun.
- E**ncourage my child and team to respect the opposition, officials and staff at MSSP events.
- F**ollow the rules and spirit of sport by acting with self-control and be a positive role model to all.
- S**upport the development of young officials by accepting their decisions even when I disagree with them.
- P**rovide positive support for all players, coaches and officials by applauding effort and good play and never criticise anyone that makes a mistake.
- E**mpower my child to make their own decisions on the field of play and not confuse them by telling them what to do.
- C**reate a positive environment where my child can play without fear and express themselves to reach their potential.
- T**each my child that doing their best is more important than winning so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or performance.

I understand that failure to abide by the guidelines above I may be:

- Issued with a verbal warning from my child's school or MSSP member of staff
- Reported in writing to my child's school
- Suspended from attending any future MSSP events

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PLAYERS

As a player I will:

Respect my teammates, opponents, teachers, coaches, parents and officials.

Encourage my teammates and opponents by applauding effort and good play.

Follow and play by the rules. I will remember that the referee is always right, even if I think they are wrong.

Shake hands with my opponent(s) at the end of a match whether we win, lose or draw.

Play fair and show good sporting behaviour throughout.

Enjoy myself and make sure everyone around me enjoys themselves too.

Control my emotions and cooperate with my team mates and teacher/coach at all times.

Tell myself that doing my best is more important than winning.

I understand that by doing all of the things listed above it will help me become a better sportsperson. I also understand that misbehaving or demonstrating negative behaviour while at an MSSP event I may be:

- Given a verbal warning from teacher/coach or MSSP staff
- Reported in writing to the Headteacher of my school
- Suspended from attending any future MSSP events

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