



# St Ann's Church of England Primary School



## St Ann's Church of England Primary School Sports Team Selection Policy

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**Owner:** St Ann's Church of England Primary School

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**We are a rights respecting school. All our policies and procedures are written and reviewed to ensure that children's rights, as detailed in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, are respected and promoted and this policy ensures:**

**Article 3:** The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

**Article 12:** All children have a right to be able to give their opinion when adults are making a decision that will affect them, and adults should take it seriously.

**Article 29:** Education should help children use and develop their talent and abilities. It should also help children learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

**Article 31:** Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

For more information on the convention and the rights of each child visit: <http://www.unicef.org.uk/>

## **Inclusion Policy Statement**

At St Ann's Church of England Primary School, we are committed to overcoming all barriers to learning and raising standards in every aspect of school life.

We aim to promote inclusivity as an integral aspect of our school development, permeating all our policies to enhance the learning and participation of all our pupils.

We celebrate differences and recognise the importance of equality, ensuring that our practises reflect the principles outlined in the Equality Act 2010. We are dedicated to fostering an environment that respects and values the protected characteristics of all individuals, including race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, and religion.

Our school acknowledges and values the varied life experiences and needs of our children. We strive to create a learning environment where the teaching, learning, achievements, attitudes, and well-being of each child matter.

We are committed to ensuring that our school practises align with our inclusive aims by utilising resources within the school and the local community. We actively respond to diversity and nurture an understanding of differences among our staff and pupils.

Our accessibility plan is designed to ensure that all pupils have equitable access to educational opportunities and facilities, promoting a culture of inclusion and participation.

The school strives to establish inclusive values by maintaining high expectations for all pupils, valuing every child, and fostering a shared philosophy among staff, governors, and parents alike. Together, we work to create a supportive and inclusive school community where every pupil can thrive.

## Role of School

Our aims for PE and School Sport throughout the school are to:

1. Encourage children to enjoy all aspects of PE and sport, whether it is competitive or creative, individual or team based. This helps them to play and participate in sports and remain active throughout their lives; which has many benefits both to their health & wellbeing, as well as socially.
2. Ensure that all pupils receive 2 hours per week of quality PE and sport provision as part of the curriculum and experience competitive and non-competitive sport internally; playing many matches within lessons and at sports events.

As with other curriculum areas, pupils' attainment and progress is carefully monitored to ensure that the skills of all pupils are developed appropriately. St Ann's Church of England Primary School perceives inter-school sports as a means of extending experience for pupils that demonstrate the requisite skills and qualities in the curriculum area.

As a school, we enter many matches, festivals and tournaments (both competitive and non-competitive) and all staff involved recognise the need to work towards an inclusive approach that enables as many pupils, including both boys and girls, as possible to experience competitive sport, in some cases representing the school.

In most instances, there are a limited number of places available and picking children to attend can often be difficult given the vast number of sporting stars we have at school. The School Games Programme is set up to be inclusive and provides opportunities to a wide range of sporting ability. The three types of competition on offer are:

1. **Intra-school competition:** Sporting activity taking place between pupils who attend the same school.
2. **Local inter-school competition:** Sporting activity taking place between schools from the same area, either as a one-off fixture or as part of a league. These competitions may act as qualifiers for county finals.
3. **School Games County provision / offer:** A showcase event held either as the culmination of a series of local inter-school competitions or as open entry events, with invitations made by Active Partnerships.

The types of competition available are also categorised following 'The School Sport and Activity Action Plan Update' (July 2023) which stated that '*competitive opportunities should be made available through intra school competitions and competitions against other schools. Schools should strive to choreograph competition that is fair with considerations of evenly matching pupils based on their ability, physical strength, and stage of development in the respective sport.*'

The three categories for competition are **Celebrate**, **Inspire** or **Aspire**.

**Celebrate:** Events are focused on fun and enjoyment of participants to encourage participation with recognition of their efforts and engagement. Events look to develop new skills, improve health and achieve pupils personal best in a safe environment that will develop young people's confidence.

**Inspire:** Participants will develop sport specific skills and increase motivation within the sport as well as foster social connections. Depending on the age group and sport, each event may be slightly altered, e.g self refereeing, power plays or School Games scorecard.

**Aspire:** A competitive event with recognition of participants for their sporting performance. These events will support the individual's development and character in sport.

With this information in mind St Ann's Church of England Primary School have agreed on the following process to selecting teams:

|                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Explanation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| <b>1. Sporting ability (understanding, skill, fitness, attitude etc.) of the child and the suitability of that child to attend either a celebrate, inspire or aspire competition.</b> | It is important to match the competition level to the child's current sporting ability so that it has a positive impact on their confidence and self-esteem. Class teachers use their professional judgement and knowledge of the child to reach a decision.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>2. Behaviour in lessons and practices</b>                                                                                                                                          | When children are selected to take part in competitions, they are representatives for St Ann's community. Children selected to take part in a competition must consistently demonstrate the St Ann's Standard (3Cs) in lessons and clubs. For health and safety reasons, school must be confident that a child is going to behave appropriately while away from the school site.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>3. Attendance at school</b>                                                                                                                                                        | A child's current level of attendance will be considered on a case by case basis. For children with attendance below 96% a decision has to be reached about how their time in school is best spent, and usually this will be in school taking part in lessons, given they have missed a significant amount of their education (e.g. due to holidays in term time). However, there may be occasions when a child's attendance is below 96%, yet the best decision is for them to attend the competition e.g. because this may motivate them to attend school, or academically they are working at or beyond age related expectation and their absence was due to expectational circumstances beyond their control. |
| <b>4. Commitment, effort and enthusiasm to training and learning that sport and wanting to improve.</b>                                                                               | Children selected to take part in a competition must show a positive attitude in lessons and at clubs. Children need to learn that success is a result of both talent and hard work.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>5. Other special considerations (e.g. disadvantage)</b>                                                                                                                            | As a school it is our moral responsibility to ensure our pupils who are disadvantaged or vulnerable are given every opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential, and therefore there will be occasions when children are selected to ensure they have access to an opportunity, they may otherwise not experience.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

For individual competition selection, for example: cross country, swimming and athletics, the pupils may be asked to attend training and trials. The pupils with the best results/times represent the school as long as they also fulfil the criteria stated previously for "team" selection.

It should be noted that point 2 above recognizes children's behavior in lessons and practices is a vital part of our selection process. If for any reason, prior to the event, a child's behaviour deteriorates school do reserve the right to withdraw the child from the competition up to and including the day of the competition.

Only children actively participating in the event will be permitted to attend. Children will not be able to spectate at events.

### **Role of parents/carers**

Taking part in different clubs/teams (inside and outside school) contributes to each child's personal development and self-esteem. This is more important than winning. All our pupils/teams play to "win" but not at any cost, it is important to compete/play in the right spirit and in a supportive atmosphere.

Parents/carers and other spectators have a great influence on the children's enjoyment and success in sport. Children play sports first and foremost because they love competing/playing. St Ann's Church of England Primary School is dedicated to nurturing that enjoyment and enthusiasm for sport and as a foundation for developing skills and tactics for life.

In order to achieve this, parents/carers, can support school as follows:

1. If your child *is* chosen regularly, please help them to understand it is a privilege to represent the school; that their selection should never be taken for granted and relies on ongoing effort from them to maintain and develop the talent they have shown; and that they should be proud of themselves and the team they are part of.
2. If your child *is not* chosen, please congratulate them on being prepared to compete for a place and encourage them to view this as a challenge from which they can learn and improve their skills/performance if they apply effort and keep practising. Also encourage them to understand that competition for places will always make the team stronger and that pride in their peers' performance is a valued behaviour regardless of whether they are in the team or not.
3. Where parents are not invited to spectate and support, respect this request. Where parents/ carers are invited to spectate, parents/carers should behave in an appropriate manner and support all the children in the right way, as established – specifically for sport – in Appendix A attached.

## **The Fair Play Promise**

Parents/carers and other spectators play a vital role in supporting children to develop healthy attitudes towards sport and competition. Most individual sports' governing bodies (e.g. the FA and RFU) promote Codes of Conduct and provide advice and video clips online to support adults with this. We encourage all players, officials and family members to adhere to the Fair Play Promise which is set out below.

Good sport is about positive attitude. You can set the right tone, and help make the game a success.

Play your part - play fair!

### **The Fair Play Promise for Players**

- a) Play by the rules
- b) Never argue with an official
- c) Work hard to do my best at all times
- d) Be a good sport and recognise good players and good play by all involved
- e) Remember to thank my coach, the officials, the opposition and supporters
- f) Help others in my team when I can
- g) Never bully or belittle others.

### **The Fair Play Promise for Officials**

- a) Control the game in a fair and positive manner
- b) Be consistent and fair in my decisions
- c) Modify my approach to suit the participant's level of ability
- d) Help players understand the rules by explaining decisions where appropriate
- e) Do what I can to make sure that everyone enjoys the game - including myself
- f) Encourage Fair Play and not tolerate foul play of any kind and always be firm but friendly

### **The Fair Play Promise for Parents and Family Members**

- a) Encourage my child, and other people's children, in their efforts in sport
- b) Insist that my child plays within the rules and by the principles of Fair Play
- c) Respect my child's efforts equally regardless of whether s/he has won or lost
- d) Display self-control on the sideline, always be positive and never shout at or ridicule players
- e) Watch my child play and let him/her enjoy the game
- f) Show my appreciation to people who volunteer their time so my child can play
- g) Remember that my child plays sport for his/her reasons not mine
- h) Be a positive role model for my child
- i) Never place undue pressure on my child to play or perform
- j) Make an effort to understand the rules of the game