



St Nicolas' Church of England Combined School

School sports team selection policy and Fair Play Promise

Role of the school

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 as possible to experience competitive sport, in some cases representing the school.

Most representative school teams involve pupils from Years 5 and 6 although occasionally teams from Years 3 and 4 may be sought for specific events. In some instances, depending on the competition or event, there will be a limited number of places available. When this happens, a team will be selected using the following criteria.

Selection for team events is based on:

- Performance, effort and behaviour in lessons and practices
- Level of skill demonstrated
- Level of fitness
- Understanding of games, tactics and rules
- Commitment to training and learning that sport
- Enthusiasm to learn and improve
- Emotional maturity and resilience to cope with the pressure
- Attitude and behaviour of player on and off the field of play, including in the classroom
- Performance as a team member

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. We are 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:

- If your child is chosen/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.
- 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.

Additionally, parents/carers and supporters who attend competitions and matches are required to behave in an appropriate manner and to support all the children in the right way, as established in our Fair Play Promise for sport.

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.

The Fair Play Promise for Players

- Play by the rules
- Never argue with an official, respect is important and without the officials we would not be able to play
- Work hard to do my best at all times
- Be a good sport and recognise good players and good play by all involved
- Remember to thank my coach, the officials, the opposition and supporters

- Help others in my team when I can, encourage your team and other players
- Avoid putting people down, we are all there to learn and have fun

The Fair Play Promise for Officials

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

The Fair Play Promise for Parents

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

The Fair Play Promise for Supporters

- Remember that people are involved in sport for fun and enjoyment
- Support and applaud good performance from all competitors
- Make an effort to understand the rules of the game
- Learn the difference between supportive and abusive comments and rule out the latter
- Accept and respect the decisions of officials and coaches

- Display self-control on the sideline, always be positive and never shout at or ridicule players
- Show my appreciation to people who volunteer their time to make sport happen