

**Richard
Whittington
Primary School**

**Sports Selection
Policy**



Richard Whittington Primary School TEAM Together Everyone Achieves More	<h1>Sports Selection</h1>	Policy Number
		Version

Role of School

Our PE policy 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 them to play or participate in sports throughout their lives, which has many benefits both to their health as well as socially.

All pupils receive approximately 2 hours per week of quality PE provision as part of the curriculum and experience competitive and non-competitive sport internally, playing many matches within lessons and sport events.

As with other curriculum areas, pupils' attainment and progress is carefully monitored to ensure that all pupils are developing appropriately. The school perceives inter-school **competitive** sports as a means of extending pupils that demonstrate the requisite skills and qualities, or who are deemed gifted, in this 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 as possible to experience competitive sport, in some cases representing the school.

Selection Criterion for sports teams

This criterion varies from fixture to fixture and is hugely dependent on the level of competition, as well as the number of children that we are allowed to take to events. Many of the competitions that we enter are of a high standard, with opposition being extremely competent in terms of skill level, knowledge of rules, tactical knowledge, strength and speed.

Selection criterion for team events is based on:

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

For all individual competition selection, for example: cross country, athletics, and indoor athletics, the pupils are selected from either PE and games lessons or by attending training and trials. The pupils with the best results/times represent the school (unless it is a non-competitive event) as long as they also fulfil the criteria stated above that are in italics. In other team events, the pupils may well be prepared in lessons with the Super Sports coach and during training sessions. The coach then liaises with the PE lead. For some events, teachers may hold before or after school clubs and select a team from those who attend.

Selection for School Teams

In an ideal world, we would love to give every child the opportunity to represent the school in every competition that we enter. However, due to circumstances beyond our control (usually squad size restrictions or the staff available) this is not possible. The decision of which children to select is never an easy one and many conversations take place to ensure that choices are fair and just. We also have to consider the level of the competition that the team will be facing and select children accordingly.

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Where there is an issue with a child's behaviour and they are not selected due to non-sporting reasons (the criterion in italics relating to behaviour and sportsmanship), this must be initially shared with the Headteacher. It must be explained to the pupil the reasons behind the decision and the improvements the school expects to see in the future. Parents must also be informed. Once improvements are observed in school, then the pupil can be once again be considered for selection in future events.

Whenever numbers and rules allow, we will always attempt to enter more than one team in a competition in order to allow as many children as possible to compete.

Friendly matches

Children who have not had an opportunity to represent the school at competition events will always be prioritised for friendly fixtures. Children who are keen and make the effort to attend clubs/practices will always be prioritised. On some occasions, there may also be times where a friendly fixture is used to prepare a team for a future competition.

Role of Parents

We think our policy is equitable and would like to thank parents 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 coming to practices and enjoy what they do with the club; they are still part of the success of their team mates, it is good to develop social skills and is also a good way of keeping fit and healthy.

Parents and children also need to be aware that sometimes other children may be chosen to represent school to allow them to have these experiences as well.

Parents 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. Richard Whittington Primary School is dedicated to nurturing that enjoyment and enthusiasm for sport and as a foundation for developing skills and tactics for life.

We believe that taking part in a club contributes to each child's personal development and self-esteem. This is more important than winning matches. All our teams play to "win" but not at any cost. It is important to play in the right spirit and in a supportive atmosphere.

In order to achieve this result, we rely heavily on the parents and supporters who attend matches to behave in an appropriate manner, to respect team selection and support all the children in the right way.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to Miss Matthews our P.E subject leader.

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