



Sports Team Selection Policy

Philosophy

Our philosophy is to 'inspire a love of sport' and encourage children to adopt healthy attitudes to sport and competition which remains something the children will continue to participate in long into adulthood.

We endeavour where possible for all children to represent the school in some form of Level 0 and Level 1 Competition each academic year with some children representing the school at Level 2/ Level 3 competitions and in some cases Level 4 competitions. Representing the school can be a major motivation for some children and it is our intention to give them this experience where possible. As members of the Bishops Sports Partnership we have extensive opportunities for children to compete.

We have breakfast and after-school sports clubs in which students can take advantage of. All of which are intended to maximise the opportunities to participate in physical activity for all the children whatever their ability.

Levels of Competitions

The school sports partnership offers multiple opportunities for all children to access competitive sport over the academic year. At Windhill21 we engage with all the opportunities presented to the school to ensure each child has represented the school at one of these levels. All competitions and results are submitted to the sports partnership and this goes towards achieving the sports mark status. The higher the number of children participating the higher the sports mark award achieved.

Level 0 – Virtual Competitions mass participation with results submitted online to the sports partnership

Level 1 – School competitions (Sports Day/matches in PE lessons)

Level 2 – Tournaments / matches against other schools

Level 3 – County tournaments

Level 4 Regional tournaments

Sports Team Selection

Our Sports Team Selection Policy throughout the school aims to encourage children to enjoy all aspects of sport whether it is competitive, non-competitive, team, individual or creative. This can consequently encourage participation for life, and in turn benefit health, well-being and increase social opportunities.

We would like every pupil to play in every fixture, However, this isn't possible because of the following factors:

Staffing, fixture rules, space, transport, pupil numbers wishing to engage in teams (both ours and our opponents) restrictions on numbers of males and females able to participate in each team and in some cases readiness to play.

As well as attempting to provide for all abilities, we also recognise that we need to provide opportunities for those pupils who are gifted and talented or excel at sport. We also believe that it is unfair to select those who are not confident to compete at high levels of competition thus being the reason we offer Level 0 and Level 1 competition opportunities.

We are aware that it can be very disappointing for a child when not selected for a team, but we consider many factors when forming our teams.

The following guidelines are considered:

- Our experienced and professional staff will use their expertise to select the most appropriate teams to represent the school against any given opposition.
- Generally, A Teams will be the strongest team available and some children, particularly in larger year groups, may be unlikely to represent the school at 'A' Team level.
- At times there may be more children in the year than there are available places in the teams, it therefore, should be accepted that some children will not be picked.
- When possible, 'B' and 'C' teams will be arranged to give more children an opportunity to compete. (Please be aware that Windhill21 consistently enters more teams into the partnership competitions than any other school has opportunity to do so. Where possible we will continue to do this.)
- If a team successfully wins a Level 2 or 3 competition the winning team of children will automatically be granted the opportunity to represent the school at the continuation level. In the event of an injury and a child is unable to participate at the next level a child from a B or C team will be selected to fill this gap.
- Due to the Partnership competitions being combined age ranges (year 1&2, year 3&4, year 5&6) and some competitions being limited on the number of children and teams being able to attend, priority will be given to the older age group. However, the ability of all children across the year groups will be taken into consideration and the strongest A team will still be selected.
- Any pupil representing the school can generally expect to play for some part of the match. If numbers dictate many substitutions, the time on the pitch will vary and rolling substitutions will be used. The needs of the game will also determine how much game time children get.
- A girl may be selected for a boy sports team if it is deemed appropriate and rules allow. Consideration will be given to her ability and if her inclusion will lead to any possible detrimental outcomes for her safety e.g. injury.
- A boy may be selected for a girl sports team if it is deemed appropriate and rules allow. Consideration will be given to his ability and if his inclusion will lead to any possible detrimental outcomes for his or an opponent's safety e.g. injury.
- Any issues regarding team selection should be brought to the attention of the Headteacher and PE Teacher, who will address any concerns. However, the discussion will only centre on the pupil in question, as it would be unethical to discuss any pupil other than their own son or daughter.

Other considerations for picking teams:

- Performance, effort and behaviour in and around school, lessons, homework and sports practices if attending
- Level of skills demonstrated (physical ability)
- Commitment to training (where applicable)
- Learning the sport
- Enthusiasm to learn and improve
- Level of fitness
- Understanding of games, tactics and rules
- Emotional maturity to cope with the pressure
- Attitude of the player on and off the field of play
- How the player presents themselves, dress, manners, helpfulness, sportsmanship, etc.
- Performance as a team member
- Understanding of the importance of safety

Parents

As parents we understand that watching and supporting your child in competitions will be important to you. However, due to the overwhelming nature of the competitions and the location of where the competitions are held. Parents are not able to watch the partnership competitions. This is a clear safeguarding requirement stipulated by Birchwood High School to ensure the safety of their pupils in their school environment, but also to protect children from the multiple primary schools attending.

There is often not enough room for parents to watch due to limited space at the venues and it is more important to maximise pupil opportunity by having lots of schools and teams in attendance than inviting parents. Unless you have been asked to attend as a supporting member of staff where you are responsible for a team (which would not be your child's team) you will not be permitted to watch the events. If you are asked to attend and support, you will be expected to have a valid, fully enhanced DBS check.

Some children across the partnership have complex safeguarding needs and at Windhill21 we respect that we all play a part in ensuring every child's right to be safe including at competitions. If as a school will do not adhere to this, we do run the risk of being banned from attending competitions. This has a wider impact on the whole school community and therefore we ask parents to be respectful of this situation.