



ST FRANCIS SCHOOL

Sports Team Selection Policy (C28)

1.	General	
	1.1	The purpose of this policy is to detail the philosophy, structure and framework which determines how the teams are selected at St Francis School. It also includes some information on the arrangements of sporting fixtures.
2.	Philosophy	
	2.1	Our philosophy is to ' inspire a love of sport ' and we endeavour where possible for all children to represent the school in some form. Representing the school can be a major motivation for some children and it is our intention to give them this experience.
	2.2	Included in our extensive fixture list are tournaments that we attend each term and these are supplemented by our inter-house competitions. We have after-school and lunchtime sports clubs. These are intended to maximise the opportunities for all the children whatever ability.
3.	Sports Team Selection	
	3.1	The 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 consequently encourages participation for life, and will benefit health, well-being and increase social opportunities in the future.
	3.2	Ideally we would like every child to play in every fixture and in every week. However, this isn't possible and the following factors explain the limitations with which we are faced when fixtures are being arranged: staffing, pitches, transport, children numbers (both ours and our opponents) and in some cases the readiness of the children to play.
	3.2.1	
	3.2.2	
	3.2.3	We do, however, ensure that during a term, every pupil will experience the opportunity to represent the school and we regularly field 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' teams where appropriate.
		We endeavour to provide for all abilities, and we do recognise that we also need to provide opportunities for those children who are able or who excel at sport. We believe that it is unfair to select those who are not yet strong enough to play at a higher level and we are very understanding of how disappointing it is not to be chosen for a match.
4.	Guidelines	
	4.1	The following guidelines will apply: • 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. • In certain weeks there may be more children in the cohort than there are available places in the teams; therefore it should be accepted that some children will not play.

		• When possible, in Years 3 to 8 an increased opportunity to represent the school is provided with 'B', 'C' and even 'D' team matches. • Any child 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. • Depending on the numbers and the provision of the schools we compete against, some Year groups will be joined together to create one squad (usually Years 7 and 8, Years 5 and 6, and Years 3 and 4). If this is the case, priority will not necessarily be given to the children from the older year group. • A girl may be selected for a boys' sports team if it is deemed appropriate. Consideration will be given to her ability (National Governing Body guidelines will be followed) and if her inclusion will lead to any possible detrimental outcomes for her safety e.g. injury. • A boy may be selected for a girls' sports team if it is deemed appropriate. Consideration will be given to his ability (National Governing Body guidelines will be followed) 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 Director of Sport, 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. • Team lists and scores will be maintained and results will be made public through a range of media (including assemblies and Friday Messages). • Team lists are emailed to all parents on a Friday afternoon for the following week's fixtures and are placed on the PE noticeboards.
	4.2	If a child is not chosen, we advise you, as parents, to encourage them to practise, enjoy what they do, play and never give up. If children are regularly chosen, we advise parents to help them to understand that it is a privilege to represent their school. At all times pupils should understand that it is important to win and lose gracefully.

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