



Placing children's rights at the heart of all we undertake.
respect integrity humility equality care towards all



Dosthill Primary Academy

Sports Selection Policy

Reviewed by: Sonia Burke
Approved by: Governing Body
Next review due: June 2020

Date: June 2019
Date: 25th June 2019

Aims and Values

Our core moral purpose is encapsulated in the vision statement for the school: Striving for excellence in an inspirational climate where learning is nurtured and secured. Our core values permeate our every breath at Dosthill Primary Academy where everyone is selflessly committed to:

- Promising Academic Achievement.
- Crafting Character Skills for Life.
- Ensuring Excellence for All.
- Inspiring Each other/Achieving Together.

Our aim is that everyone in our Dosthill Family grows in confidence to achieve their ambitions and dreams with courage and kindness. We promise to provide a caring ethos where all children have the confidence to explore, dream and discover so that every valuable second of the day is a learning adventure.

Rights Respecting School

In 2011 Dosthill School registered to obtain the Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA). This award recognises achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at the heart of a school's planning, policies, practice and ethos. As a rights-respecting school we not only teach about children's rights but also model rights and respect in all of the relationships: between teachers/adults and learners, between adults and between learners.

This Policy relates most directly to the following article from the 'UN Convention on the Rights of the Child':

Article 29: Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.

Role of School

We are grateful to those members of staff who give generously of their time to organise events and to attend competitions that take place outside of the school day.

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 at least 1 hour 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. There are also opportunities for children to play competitively and non-competitively at lunchtime through clubs organised with outside providers and games organised on the playground e.g. those that take place in the Smooga area that are organised by the lunch time supervisors or Elite Sports Coach.

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. We also organise Inter House Sporting Competitions to give more pupils the chance of participating in competitive sporting competition e.g. our annual Sports' Days.

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 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 as long as they also fulfil the criteria stated above that are in italics. In other team events, the pupils will be prepared in lessons and during lunch time sports clubs; coaches from these will liaise with the PE lead. For some events, teachers may hold before or after school clubs and select a team from those who attend.

All children who attend or volunteer for a sporting trial will be made aware prior to the event about the expectations and outcome from such a process.

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.

Helping children develop life skills is an essential part of teaching and learning at our school. An important part of this education is to help children to cope with the elements of competition. Winning, losing, fair

play, teamwork, selection and non-selection, along with developing respect for coaches and managers are important aspects of this learning process.

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 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 be prioritised for friendly fixtures wherever possible. The school is committed to ensuring that children who are keen and make the effort to attend clubs receive opportunities wherever possible to play in team fixtures. On some occasions however, there may also be times where it is necessary for a friendly fixture to be 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 teammates, it is good to develop social skills and is also a good way of keeping fit and healthy.
- Understanding that it is not easy for members of staff to make selections for teams and respecting their decisions.

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. Dosthill 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 the Head Teacher.

Equal Opportunities

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the

Public Sector Equality Duty requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Dissemination

Policy first drafted for Governor, staff and parent consultation: *July 2017*

The Policy is available on teams (staff and governors) and the school website for parents and carers, staff and others to access.