



### **St. Edward's Prep – Team Selection Policy (January 2016 onwards)**

Our sports team selection policy serves to encourage children to enjoy all aspects of sport whether it is competitive, creative or individual. This then helps them to play or participate throughout their lives, which has many benefits both health wise and socially.

Matches are played on pupils' Games afternoons. Those not in matches still have a Games lesson. We play competitive matches at all levels, from Year 3 to Year 8. We would like nothing more than to include every child in matches every week but this is not always possible. We choose what we consider to be our best teams for 'A fixtures'. It is not feasible to suggest or expect that every pupil or parent will be wholly satisfied with team selection.

We maintain it would be unfair on those who excel at sport not to be included and unfair to select those who are not yet strong enough to play at that level. It is, indeed, detrimental to the development of a child's sporting prowess to participate in a fixture above their ability, as they will struggle to compete and may lose confidence for future training sessions and fixtures. Similarly, we cannot play our stronger performers in lower ability fixtures, as this would not be fair to the players themselves or the opposing school, who expect St. Edward's Prep to pick teams according to ability.

No team is fixed, and through experience we know that different children develop at different rates. We realise how disappointing it is not to be chosen for a match, which is why we arrange 'B, C & D' team fixtures where possible. In this way, we try to include everyone. Our policy, however, is to play the appropriate team for that particular match and not let the children take it in turns; this leads to mediocrity. We hope to always ensure each fixture is as competitive as possible, because neither the winning team nor the losing team gains or learns anything when it is too one-sided.

Selection is based on:

- Conduct on home and away fixtures
- Attitude in lessons
- Aptitude and skills demonstrated
- Understanding of the game and tactical play
- Performances and effort in lessons and practices
- Commitment to practices and training
- Level of fitness
- The manner in which you present yourself – dress, manners, helpfulness, sportsmanship, etc.
- Enthusiasm to learn and improve one's game

Once a child sees his name on a team sheet displayed at school, they are guaranteed some form of participation in the fixture. In the event they are absent from school or unable to take part, they will be considered for selection in the following fixture. It is the child's responsibility to check the team sheet every Monday (if in Years 5-8) and Wednesday (if in Years 3-4) and inform the Head of Sport if they cannot participate in a fixture. If absence from a fixture is necessary then the Head of Sport should be informed as soon as possible. It is expected that any absence from weekend fixtures should be notified at least two weeks in advance as these are published at the beginning of term and replacement players may not easily be called up. Absence that could be avoided or brought to our attention earlier will cause serious problems for sports staff and could directly affect consideration for future fixtures. In the event there is some form of misbehaviour by a student before or during the match, the punishment (as



deemed appropriate by the relevant member of staff and Head of Sport) will be enforced after the fixture itself. This means the child's participation in the match will not be affected.

We are convinced that our policy reflects best practice and would hope that you would support us in this. If your child is not chosen, encourage them to come and practise, enjoy the sports they play and never give up. If your child is regularly chosen, help them to understand it is a privilege to represent the school.

We are aware that we cannot please everyone but hope you understand our views and support the school's policy.

### **Parental involvement**

Please refer to the IAPS Code of Good Practice for Spectators for further information about parental involvement.

All decisions made by match officials must be respected. Decisions or mistakes made by pupils must not be highlighted by adults on the touchline. Enthusiastic encouragement, support and applause are always welcome.

A full fixture list is arranged throughout the year, with all pupils playing at some stage. We obviously enjoy winning, but another priority must also be participation for all, along with enjoyment and the development of teamwork skills. Great effort will be made to ensure each and every child represents the school in sporting fixtures as regularly as possible, but participation cannot be guaranteed for all on a weekly basis; it is and will always remain a privilege, and must be treated as such.



## **IAPS Code of Good Practice for Spectators**

Spectators should remember the following:

1. Children play organised sport for their own fun. They are not there to entertain you and they are not miniature adults nor professional sportsmen or women.
2. Do not harass or swear at players, coaches or officials.
3. Applaud good play by both sides and show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.
4. Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake during a competitive match of any kind.
5. Condemn the use of violence in all forms.
6. Respect the decisions made by officials.
7. Encourage players always to play to the rules.
8. Relax and enjoy the game whether your team wins or not.
9. Remember that young people learn by example so make sure that yours is the right one!