Ravenbank SCHOOL

Selection for Sporting Events Policy

Policy owner: Sports Leader / Headteacher
Review frequency: Three years
Date of review: November 2026

1. Aims and Principles

At Ravenbank Primary School, we believe every child should have opportunities to participate in sporting, cultural, academic and enrichment activities beyond the classroom.

In keeping with our motto, *Working Together to Achieve Success*, we aim to develop confidence, skills, teamwork and resilience, while celebrating achievement and excellence.

Our approach is based on three principles:

- **Every child belongs:** Opportunities should be inclusive and accessible.
- **Every child can develop:** Pupils should be encouraged to explore interests and develop their talents.
- **Excellence is celebrated:** Pupils should have opportunities for appropriate challenge and competition.

Selection will be fair, transparent and consistent, balancing participation with performance and ensuring opportunities are shared equitably over time. The school will seek to provide a wide range of opportunities by linking up with sports partnerships and local schools.

2. Types of Opportunities and Selection

Selection will reflect the purpose, requirements and available places for each event.

Participation and enjoyment: Festivals, friendly matches and taster sessions will prioritise interest, inclusion and pupils who have had fewer previous opportunities. Selection may be random where appropriate.

Development and challenge: Opportunities to develop skills, confidence and teamwork will consider interest, potential, commitment and previous participation.

Performance and competition: Where specific skills are required, selection may consider demonstrated ability, teamwork, understanding of the activity, behaviour and commitment. Pupils should be given opportunities to demonstrate their skills where practicable. Coaches may contribute to decisions.

For non-competitive events with limited places and no specific skill requirements, selection will generally be random, taking account of eligibility criteria and previous participation where appropriate.

Teams progressing through competition stages will ordinarily remain unchanged to support continuity, unless changes are appropriate and permitted by competition rules.

Participation in external sports clubs will not automatically provide an advantage, although demonstrated skills may be relevant to competitive selection.

3. General Selection Criteria

Staff may consider:

- Interest and willingness to participate.
- Relevant ability, skills and potential.
- Behaviour, attitude, teamwork and commitment.
- Previous opportunities to represent the school.
- Individual needs and reasonable adjustments.

Selection will be made by the class teacher, Sports Leader or relevant staff member, with coach input where appropriate. Criteria will be explained to pupils wherever possible.

4. Inclusion and Equality

We are committed to fair access regardless of ability, disability, SEND, gender, background or personal circumstances.

In accordance with the Equality Act 2010, reasonable adjustments will be considered to prevent disabled pupils being placed at a substantial disadvantage. These may include adapted instructions, additional preparation or adult support, modified equipment or activities, and individual behaviour strategies.

Where individual needs or safety concerns may affect participation, an assessment will be undertaken, involving the SENDCo and parents where appropriate. Decisions must be individualised and proportionate, with reasonable adjustments considered before making selection decisions.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Sports Leader:** Coordinates events and selection, maintains the whole-school participation tracker, monitors equitable access and reports participation patterns to SLT each term.
- **Headteacher:** Has overall responsibility for the policy, ensuring fair selection and compliance with equality and safeguarding requirements. Reviews significant concerns and selection disputes.
- **Class Teachers:** Identify interested pupils, contribute to selection and consider relevant criteria and individual needs. Support pupils managing disappointment.
- **SENDCo:** Advises on reasonable adjustments, barriers to participation and individual assessments where additional needs may affect participation or safety.

6. Behaviour and Representing the School

Pupils representing the school are expected to demonstrate our values of **Friendship, Respect, Trust and Perseverance**. They should follow instructions, behave safely, show good sportsmanship, work positively with others and treat teammates, opponents and officials respectfully.

Staff may consider behaviour and attitude during the preceding half term. Decisions must take account of individual circumstances, the relevance of any concerns and reasonable adjustments required.

Where significant safety concerns cannot be sufficiently addressed through reasonable adjustments or additional support, participation in a particular event may not be appropriate. Such decisions must be individualised, proportionate, recorded and communicated to parents.

7. Monitoring Participation and Equity

The Sports Leader will maintain a whole-school tracker of participation in sporting competitions, festivals and external events. This will help monitor:

- Participation across year groups and gender.
- Access for pupils with SEND and disadvantaged pupils.
- Pupils with limited previous opportunities.
- Patterns of repeated selection

Staff will use this information to identify and address barriers, ensuring opportunities are distributed equitably over time. Equity does not mean identical participation for every pupil.

8. Resilience and Managing Disappointment

We recognise that not being selected can be disappointing. Staff will help pupils understand that decisions reflect the specific requirements and purpose of an event, rather than their overall ability, effort or potential.

Pupils will be encouraged to celebrate others' achievements, persevere and continue developing their skills. Alternative opportunities will be offered wherever possible and the school will aim to provide information about other opportunities that may be available to pupils in local clubs.

Parents and carers are encouraged to support this approach and contact the school if they have concerns about selection or believe their child has experienced barriers to participation.