



# Competitive Sports Selection Criteria

## Introduction

At St Stephen's Primary School, we are passionate about delivering a high-quality Physical Education (PE) curriculum that builds our pupils' physical skills, supports their health and well-being, and inspires a lifelong love for staying active. Competitive sport is a wonderful part of this journey, helping children develop personal resilience, confidence, and strong character.

This policy outlines our fair, clear, and transparent approach to selecting pupils for competitive sporting events, ensuring that these exciting opportunities remain inclusive and accessible.

## Curriculum Provision and Enrichment

PE is a vital part of our broad, balanced curriculum, designed to help children naturally progress in their skills, knowledge, and physical literacy. At Key Stage 2 (KS2), all Games lessons are delivered by a specialist sports coach. Our coach also leads many PE lessons across the school and works collaboratively to train and support our classroom teachers.

To enrich our curriculum, we offer a vibrant range of extracurricular sporting clubs that give pupils extra opportunities to get active. These clubs align with the local School Sports Partnership calendar, allowing children to sharpen their skills, apply what they have learned in fun, competitive settings, and prepare for inter-school events. We actively encourage all pupils to join these clubs as part of our commitment to promoting healthy, active lifestyles.

## Selection for Competitive Sport

When choosing teams for competitive events, we use a consistent, encouraging, and evidence-informed approach. Our selection takes the following positive criteria into account:

- **Ability and Performance:** Selection is guided by the skills and progress pupils demonstrate over time. We gather this information through ongoing encouragement and assessment in PE lessons and after-school clubs, alongside helpful objective measures like times and scores.
- **Attitude to Learning:** We celebrate pupils who show a positive attitude, a commitment to improving, and enthusiastic engagement in both lessons and clubs. A willingness to work beautifully as a team and respond positively to feedback is essential.

- **Behaviour and Conduct:** Pupils chosen to represent St Stephen's are expected to lead by example, consistently meeting our school's behaviour standards by being reliable, responsible, and respectful.
- **Sportsmanship and Values:** Team members are proud ambassadors of our school values, showing genuine respect, fairness, and integrity toward teammates, opponents, officials, and staff alike.

This thoughtful process ensures that team selection is fair, transparent, and celebrates both a child's performance and their personal growth.

When a tournament or match offers a specific opportunity to compete against other schools at a high standard, our highest-performing pupils will be selected based on the criteria above. Consequently, these pupils may have the opportunity to represent the school in multiple events.

## **Inclusion and Participation**

We are fully committed to ensuring that every single pupil enjoys access to high-quality PE and sport. Alongside high-level competitive tournaments, we provide a wonderful variety of inclusive events and festivals throughout the school year to maximise participation and fun. For these festivals, we select a wide range of children of different abilities using the same criteria above, focusing on participation rather than just top performance.

These inclusive opportunities include:

- Key Stage 1 Multi-Sport Festivals: Focusing on developing fundamental movement skills in a warm, supportive, and inclusive environment.
- Key Stage 2 Sports Festivals: Emphasising teamwork, skill development, and pure enjoyment.
- Targeted Events: Including dedicated girls' sports festivals to build confidence and promote participation among underrepresented groups.
- Enrichment Opportunities: Such as cross-country running and water-based activities (like our swimming gala), offering a broad and wonderfully varied sporting experience.

Through this balanced approach, we support all pupils in building confidence, physical competence, and a joy for movement. Please note that while event organiser guidelines mean numbers are sometimes limited, our proud goal is that by the end of Year 6, every child will have had the opportunity to represent St Stephen's in a sport.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

To ensure this policy works beautifully for our community, it is regularly monitored by the PE subject leader and senior leadership team. Our evaluation focuses on:

- High participation rates in extracurricular clubs and competitive events.
- Ensuring our provision remains inclusive across all different pupil groups.

- The continued effectiveness and fairness of our selection processes.
- Listening closely to pupil voice and feedback regarding PE and school sport.

We use these insights to guide our future planning and to ensure continuous improvement across the school.

## **Equality and Inclusion**

St Stephen's Primary School is wholeheartedly committed to equality of opportunity, ensuring that all pupils are treated fairly, equally, and with deep respect.

We happily make reasonable adjustments whenever necessary to ensure that pupils with additional needs or disabilities can fully access our sporting opportunities. We actively champion inclusion and work hard to remove any barriers to participation for all of our children.

## **Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the PE subject leader and the senior leadership team to ensure it remains current, effective, and perfectly aligned with national guidance and our school priorities.

## **Sports Lead**