



Sports Department Policy

We actively promote democracy, the rule of the law, individual liberty and respect those with different faiths and beliefs. These are fundamental British Values which underpin all that we offer, as does our School Motto 'Not for oneself but for all.'

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the additional role of the Sports Department within the school, outside of the curriculum. It has been developed through a process of consultation between teaching staff and is periodically reviewed. It focuses on; extra-curricular practices, fixtures, attendance, team selection processes and expectations.

Why competition?

Competition in children allows the learning of numerous values about teamwork, unselfishness, commitment, persistence, comradery, fairness and sportsmanship. The question of losing and its relation to a child's self-esteem is constantly under discussion; however, we believe that life lessons are learnt through competitive sport and the winning or losing is but a small outcome of any match. Other lessons learnt through competitive sport are far superior to the winning or losing. Every child at St Hilary's is given the opportunity to take part in competitive sport at the level most appropriate to them and thrive on the challenge. St Hilary's offers competition in a range of sports to suit individual needs.

Team Selection

Staff selecting teams will consider both the ability level and attitude of all players. Selection of players and their positions within teams will be the responsibility of the member of staff in charge of that team. All teams are shared and discussed amongst the department and agreed together. Staff will decide any necessary team amendments to cover players who are absent on the day of the fixture. Players will be selected by merit for school teams and where appropriate pupils may be selected to play up one age group. All players must participate fairly during school matches. Players may be required to move between teams and positions, at the discretion of the staff involved, based on pupil progress within the season. No teams are set across the term. Teams are consistently changing and will do so by way of the PE staff. The pupils or parents are not involved with team selection within the school.

Attendance at squad practices is essential to those children who are playing within the A or B teams at St Hilary's. Children who choose not to attend the practices may not be selected to play in the A or B teams. There are times when a child might be at a music lesson or a paid club within school in which case they should still be considered for team selection. In this instance we ask the parents to write a note in the child's homework diary to inform us. If the child is unwell, this would not affect his/her chance of being selected.

Fixtures

Every pupil in Year 2 – 6 at St Hilary's School will have the opportunity to play competitive sport and represent their school. The amount of fixtures for any given team will be dependent on the

opportunities available and the level of appropriateness for the ability level. Competitive sport will be offered both within school and through an additional fixtures programme, all with huge benefit to the individual. More fixtures do not always mean more progress and skill development.

In Year 2 children will have the opportunity to play in mixed ability matches and coaching sessions with other schools. All children will be invited where possible however there will be some tournaments and events when we will be restricted with entries.

In Year 3, children will not play matches against other schools for the first half of the Autumn term, but will learn match play through their lessons. They will begin to play matches during the second half of the Autumn term and in the Spring Term, where parents will be invited to support and enjoy match tea with the children. However, these matches will focus on coaching during game play and teams will be mixed ability. Depending on the ability and appropriateness, Year 3 will have a block fixture as a whole year group with another school. All children will be given the chance to play.

In years 4-6 Children take part in many different competitive sports. We aim for these to be inclusive and involve as many children as possible. However, at times teams will be selected particularly for swimming, cross-country, gymnastics and athletics.

For all matches, pupils must arrive in their full tracksuit and raincoat if the weather is bad. If it is a netball match, each child will be provided with a school netball dress to wear. This dress should be washed and given back to the PE department within 2 days of the match.

Staff will provide a team sheet with a copy of all home and away team lists/match information. Pick up timings will include time required for match teas. All pupils are expected to stay for match teas and presentations at tournaments.

No responsibility is taken by St Hilary's School for valuable personal possessions.

Saturday Tournaments

Pupils will meet the staff at the venue of the tournament on a Saturday and parents are responsible for the drop off and collection of their child. Parents are also responsible for bringing any medical requirements to the tournament and passing them to the PE staff if they are not intending to stay for the entirety of the tournament.

Results

All match information and results will be published in the Friday Notes along with a match report by the team captain.

Selective squads

For selective squads such as the swimming squad and the gymnastics squad, there is a selection process that the Staff at St. Hilary's follows:

Swimming – the children will be assessed during their Friday swimming lessons, on their time across 25m for each stroke, their technique, fitness and work rate. Throughout each term, the children's progress is monitored and assessed in a variety of ways. The swim squad is subject to change on a termly basis and children can move in or out of the squad. A letter / phone call will be made / given to the child's parents to inform them of this change. As with other teams within the school, this does not mean that the same child will not be selected in the future.

Gymnastics – a trial session will be organised and children will be asked to showcase a variety of skills in a controlled environment. The staff will assess the children on a tested and trialled format to

establish the team. A child will not automatically maintain their place in the gymnastics squad from one year to the next.

Fixtures / Tournaments / Competitions during Curriculum Time

The following information is cross referenced in this policy as well as the Physical Education Policy: Pupils are permitted to miss curriculum lessons for the day or afternoon one per half term, per sport. This can only be deviated from should the Headteacher agree it in advance. All staff affected should be notified in good time, prior to the lessons being missed.

Reviewed: June 2022, June 2021, June 2023, June 2023, June 2024

Next Review: June 2025

Person responsible: Mr Jack Don-Carolis (Director of Sport)