

Competitive Sports Team selection & Code of Conduct policy



R A Butler Academy Infant and Junior Schools

Date of policy	Revised November 2025
Review Date	October 2028
Headteacher's signature	Signed copy on file in HT office
Chair of Governor's signature	Signed copy on file in HT office

Role of School

We aim to give children the opportunity to participate in sporting activities which are designed to develop the whole child.

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. As a school, we acknowledge the role that physical activity has to play in good mental health and emotional well-being. Engagement in sport and exercise is a vital part of keeping children physically and mentally healthy.

All pupils receive at least 2 hours per week of quality PE provision as part of the curriculum and experience competitive and non-competitive sport internally, playing many matches within lessons, house competitions, and sport events. 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 sports as a means of extending pupils that demonstrate the requisite skills and qualities (discussed below) 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. Where there are 'family' events for schools in Saffron Walden, it is our aim to take whole year groups to participate where that is allowed by the PLT rules. For other competitions we will look to enter as many teams as possible.

Selection for competitive team events will be trialled by the PE Team and will be based on:

- Level of skill demonstrated
- Level of fitness
- Understanding of games, tactics, and rules
- Emotional maturity to cope with the pressure
- Performance, effort and behaviour in lessons and practices *(see below for further information)*
- Commitment to training and learning
- Attitude of player on and off the field of play *(see below for further information)*
- How the player presents themselves, dress, manners, helpfulness, sportsmanship, etc.
- Performance of the player as a team member
- Enthusiasm to learn and improve
- Understanding of the importance of safety

For individual competition selection, for example: swimming, cross country, athletics, and indoor athletics, the pupils attend training and trials. The pupils with the best results/times represent the school as long as they also fulfil the criteria stated previously for "team" selection.

Teams will be selected as far in advance as possible. Those children who have trialled for a team, but not been successful, will be notified in a letter or meeting prior to the team selection being published.

Behaviour Expectations

There is an assumption that behaviour at all trials, training and clubs is in line with the school behaviour expectations at all times. It is made clear to the children that one aspect of team selection is based on behaviour at trials and training (as listed above) and that continued or serious unexpected behaviour may result in a child not being selected for a squad or being removed from the squad.

If behaviour at a club or trial is not in line with school behaviour expectations and continued and consistent unexpected behaviour is demonstrated, then standard behaviour policy procedures will be followed, and parents will be contacted to inform them of their child's actions.

In extreme circumstances a child's behaviour in school may also be a contributing factor to selection to a squad or removal from a squad – this is likely to be linked to receiving red behaviour cards in school for highly unexpected behaviour (see behaviour policy).

When a child's selection to a squad (or continued participation in a squad) is at risk because of unexpected behaviour this will be discussed with the child ahead of selection. Equally, if a child's behaviour has fallen below expectations at a sporting event, then this too may impact the child's future selection and opportunities to represent RA Butler in future external events. There will, however, be opportunities for the child to demonstrate that they can make good choices and can turn their behaviour around and be considered for selection.

See **Sports Teams code of conduct** below

Year 5/6 and other exceptions

As a school, we recognise the crucial factor that sport plays as a motivation tool for many children. In the rare situations where we may feel that a child is at risk of not meeting either targeted age-related expectations or greater depth expectations by the end of Key Stage Two, we will go through the following collaborative and open approach with teachers, parents, and children.

To help achieve excellence for all children in all curriculum areas, we follow this process:

- Before February half term a meeting is held with the PE team and the Year 5/6 teachers to look at sporting and academic balances.
- At that meeting the sports team will outline the team commitments for the rest of the academic year with team lists or lists of children they would expect to be selecting from for the teams (as accurately as is possible at that point in the year).
- It is our main aim to allow all children the opportunity to take part in the competitions that they have been selected for. At this point teachers will have the opportunity to identify if there are any children where excessive time out of the classroom is causing a concern and to consider whether the timings and frequency of any future sporting competitions (as well as other aspects such as music commitments, attendance etc) will really impact on the curriculum and outcomes
- If after considering all of the factors, there is still a concern, teachers will discuss this with parents and children during the February parent consultations. This is a collaborative discussion which will highlight the aim that we want the child to excel in all areas of the curriculum. Part of the discussion will explain that, a decision may be made to reduce the number of teams the child is in or to just monitor with an agreement that if standards drop or do not improve, this could result in the number of teams that child belongs to being reduced. We hope that this will be enough to get things back on track. The headteacher's decision on this is final.
- It is our aim that children will not be removed from a competitive event if they were part of the original team who may have progressed to the next level.

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 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.

Parents and spectators have an enormous influence on the children's enjoyment and success in sport. Children play sports first and foremost because they love playing. RA Butler Academy Schools are 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 and to support all the children in the right way (see code of conduct).

RA Butler Sports Teams Code of Conduct

1. Respect

- Treat coaches, teammates, referees, and opponents with respect at all times.
- Show courtesy and good manners in school, at home, and during training.

2. Effort and Attitude

- Always try your best in training, matches, and school.
- Listen carefully and follow instructions from adults.

3. School Behaviour

- Maintain good behaviour and attendance at school.
- Complete homework and classwork to the best of your ability.
- Represent the school positively in your school community.

4. Teamwork

- Support and encourage your teammates.
- Celebrate others' successes and learn from mistakes together.

5. Responsibility

- Arrive on time for training and matches.
- Wear the correct kit and bring necessary equipment.
- Take care of school property and facilities.

6. Communication

- Speak kindly and clearly.
- Tell a trusted adult if something is worrying you.

7. Consequences

Unexpected behaviour may lead to:

- A warning or discussion with coaches.
- A meeting with parents and school staff.
- Removal from the squad in serious cases.

RA Butler Academy- CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS/SPECTATORS

Parents/spectators/schools should: -

- Ensure that they are always positive and encouraging towards all of the young people involved in the game and applaud the opposition as well as your own team
- Respect the referee's/teacher's decision
- Avoid coaching the child during the game. Your son/daughter may have been given specific instructions from a member of staff at the school and giving him/her additional information may be confusing or contradict what he/she has been told previously.
- Show restraint - please do not shout and scream, apart from words of encouragement
- Give praise to all of the pupils involved in school sport, not just the most talented
- Not enter upon the field of play unless directly invited by the referee/teacher