



Competitive Sports Team selection/Code of Conduct policy

Role of School

Our school ethos is 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 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 (to be agreed in advance with James Smith, the link SLT member and the SSCo).

Selection for competitive team events will be trialled by James Smith 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
- Commitment to training and learning
- Attitude of player on and off the field of play
- How the player presents themselves, dress, manners, helpfulness, sportsmanship, etc.
- Performance of the play 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. A designated link member of SLT will agree the team selection with James Smith before publishing for the children.

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.

Year 5/6 and other exceptions

As a school, we recognise the important 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 James Smith and the Year 5/6 teachers to look at sporting and academic balances.
- At that meeting James will outline the team commitments for the rest of the academic year with team lists or lists of children he would expect to be selecting 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.

If a child’s behaviour and attitude to learning is deemed to be less than satisfactory, this could also lead to them not being allowed to represent the school in external sporting events.

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 regularly 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 team mates.

Parents and spectators have a great 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 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/teachers 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