



## **The Froebelian School Team Selection Policy**

### **Introduction**

At Froebelian our approach to team selection throughout the school encourages children to enjoy all aspects of PE and Games, whether they are competitive, creative, individual or team-based. This enables children to actively engage and participate in physical activity and competition sport throughout their lives, which may have health and social benefits.

### **Fixtures and Competitions**

As a school, we enter many matches, festivals and tournaments. Throughout the year, we also organise Inter-House sporting competitions so as to give more pupils the chance of participating in all of these types of competitive sporting situations. Fixtures are played both during school time and after school. We play fixtures at all levels and in a wide range of sports. We have children who regularly represent Froebelian.

### **Team Selection**

In an ideal world, we would like to include every eligible child in each fixture; however, due to circumstances beyond our control (usually squad size restrictions and the staffing ratio requirements for off-site activities) this is not always possible. The decisions regarding which children are selected are never easy and many conversations take place to ensure that choices are fair and just. We also have to consider the level of the competition that the team will be facing and select children accordingly.

We try to ensure that everyone has played in at least one match in a season (for Form IV.) We do choose what we consider to be our best teams for any first team fixtures (known as the 'A' Team.) We understand it would be unfair on those who excel at sport not to be included and unfair to select those who are not yet strong enough to play at that level. However, we do encourage, support and strive for success with the 'B' Team players just as much as the 'A' Team.

No squad is fixed in stone, team line-ups are fluid and, through experience, we know that children develop at different rates. We do appreciate how disappointing it is not to be chosen for a match, which is why we try to arrange 'B' team fixtures wherever possible and we also play against schools that are not as strong as us. In this way, we try to include everyone. Our over-riding principle, however, is to play the appropriate team for that particular fixture and level of competition.

Team selection is based on the following criteria:

- Aptitude, skills and tactics demonstrated in lessons and extra-curricular activities
- Attitude in lessons, squad-training, extra-curricular and matches (on and off the field of play)
- Understanding of games, tactics and rules

- Enthusiasm to learn and improve one's game
- Performances and effort in lessons and practices
- Continued commitment to practice and training
- General level of fitness
- Emotional maturity to cope with pressure and resilience in dealing with failure in competitions, and also when not chosen to participate in competitions and matches
- Understanding the importance of safety
- Manner in which children present themselves - dress, manners, helpfulness, sportsmanship, etc.
- General conduct during home and away fixtures when representing the school

It is also important to recognise the difference in squad sizes for netball and football fixtures.

### **Children and Team Selection**

Due to our class sizes and fluctuating imbalances between the number of boys and girls in each class, sometimes only a small handful of children will not be chosen to represent the school and this may seem unfair or difficult to understand. Sports staff will endeavour to speak with all the children in advance of the fixture season to help the children understand the process of team selection and explain what the children can do to improve their chances of being selected in the future.

### **Team Kit**

The School holds team kit which will be issued to children when required. We appreciate parents' support in laundering team kit and returning it promptly to school. In the interests of personal safety, all long hair should be tied back and nails should be kept trimmed. No jewellery is permitted.

### **Behaviour**

At The Froebelian School, we set high expectations for behaviour and we uphold strong standards for the conduct of the children. When there is an issue with a child's behaviour (either in the classroom or in sporting activities) and, as a sanction, the child is not selected to represent the school, this will be shared with the class teacher and Headteacher. Staff will explain to the child the reasons behind the decision and the improvements the school expects to see in the future. Parents may also be informed. Once improvements in behaviour are observed in school, only then can the child be considered once again for selection in future events.

### **Role of Parents**

We would like to thank parents in advance for supporting us as follows:

- If your child is selected regularly for a team, please help them to understand it is an honour and privilege to represent Froebelian and they should be proud of themselves.
- If your child is not chosen for a given match, encourage them to keep coming to practices and enjoy what they do with the extra-curricular 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. We aim to nurture that enjoyment and enthusiasm for sport as a foundation for developing skills and tactics for life.

We also believe that taking part in lessons and clubs contributes to each child's personal development and self-esteem. All of 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, we do heavily rely on parents and supporters who attend matches to behave in an appropriate manner, to respect team selection and support the children.

### **Awards**

At the end of each academic year, a Sports Presentation is held for Junior children. Awards are presented to acknowledge the commitment, progress and attainment children have made throughout the year.

Awards include a number of categories:

- Progress awards for those who made significant progress throughout the year
- Merits for commitment and development
- Colours are awarded for consistent or outstanding representation for the school or a high level of attainment at 'A' team level.
- Special achievement awards are for those who have previously been awarded colours and have continued to show excellent commitment
- The winners of individual events and medals and cups for achievement in various sports will be awarded at Sports Presentation.

**Please note:** progression to the next level of award is not automatic each year. It is dependent on continuous effort, progress and standards of attainment.

This policy is reviewed regularly by the Sports Leader, in consultation with sports staff and the Headteacher, in the light of experience, research and good practice.

Policy Date: January 2021

Policy Review Date: January 2024

Signed (Headteacher):

