



TEAM SELECTION POLICY 2022-23

The St Margaret's Sports Department's mission is to cultivate a passion for lifelong learning and enjoyment of Physical Education, where students constantly strive to 'achieve their best'. We encourage children to develop physical literacy, knowledge, understanding and confidence to lead a healthy active lifestyle. To enable students to develop core values, character, and life skills to equip them for later life. P.E is much more than just playing sport; it is a vehicle for developing the four main domains of learning.

Our PE team selection policy throughout the school is there to help us with our mission statement and encourage children to enjoy all aspects of sport whether it is competitive or non-competitive. We want to spark that enjoyment of sport at whatever level and encourage children to participate throughout their lives, improving their physical and mental wellbeing.

Matches are played on pupils' games afternoons (Wednesday and Fridays). Those not in matches have Games Lessons with designated members of the PE Department. We play competitive matches at all levels and have two age groups that regularly represent the school (U9 & U11).

We would like nothing more than to include every child in every match, but this is just not possible. We endeavour to ensure that, every child has been selected to play in at least one match each term.

Although we give children autonomy over the sports that they choose, we still strive to be a highly competitive sports school and do select what we consider to be our best teams for 'A Team Fixtures'.

We realise how disappointing it is not to be chosen for a match, which is why we arrange 'B, C, D & E' team fixtures where possible. We also organise internal fixtures that all children are invited to take part in once a term (U9s).

No team is fixed, and through experience we understand that different children develop at different rates.

We maintain it would be unfair on those who excel at sport not to be included and unfair and sometimes unsafe, to select those who are not yet strong enough to play at a particular level. We aim to play the appropriate team for every match, this may not necessary mean we rotate the children. There are occasions (others school tournaments) where we are required to have a certain number of girls/boys in a team. This of course changes the way that the team is selected.

If a child does not want to take part in a fixture, they will not be made to. We will put up team lists a week prior to the fixture so the children have the chance to see that they have been chosen and opt out if they would like to do so.

We aim to have a finalised team lists out to parents a week prior to fixtures. This gives you time to organise transport/ collection from venue and let us know if your child is being picked up from school post game or direct from the venue. This also helps us to ensure that your child has the correct bags with them if they are being collected from the venue.

In rugby, we will be firm on who we select for competitive contact matches and have full discretion to decide whether a child is ready to play in contact matches. Please respect our decision around selection for these matches.

To further differentiate, the more able pupils will be encouraged to participate and be selected for older age groups, if the opportunity presents itself.

Selection is based on:

- Conduct on home and away fixtures
- Attitude and behaviour in lessons
- Aptitude and skills demonstrated
- Understanding of the game and tactical play
- Performances and effort in lessons and practices
- Commitment to practices and training/ clubs
- Level of fitness
- Presentation- dress, manners, helpfulness, sportsmanship, etc.
- Enthusiasm to learn and improve one's game

If a child is chosen for a fixture but they do not have the correct protective equipment (gumshield, shinpads etc.) and kit for the match (as outlined in the match letter) they will not be able to take part in the match and will be asked to stay at school and take part in the normal games lessons.

We greatly appreciate your support and have tried to ensure that this policy enables us to be transparent and fair when selecting teams and developing sporting skills. If your child is not chosen, we would ask that you encourage them to come and practise, enjoy when they do play and never give up. If your child is regularly chosen, we would ask that you help them to understand it is a privilege to represent the school.

We are aware that opinions around competitive sports can be varied, but hope you are now able to better understand our criteria at St. Margaret's.

We request that parents do not email asking for details about team selection, instead please arrange a meeting where we will be more than happy to talk through areas for improvement for your child as an individual.