St John and St Nicolas Schools Federation

For the good of all through curiosity, creativity and love

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Index		Page
1.	Philosophy	2
2.	Levels of Competition	3
3.	Values	3
4.	Sports Team Selection	3
5.	Role of parents / carers	4
	Appendix A: The Fair Play Promise	5

St John and St Nicolas Schools Federation
Sports Team Selection Policy

At St John and St Nicolas Schools Federation, our vision is 'For the good of all – through curiosity, creativity and love.' This vision inspires everything that the federation does. It applies equally to all the federation's policies with the intention that our policies impact as fairly and positively as possible to meet the needs of all members of our schools' community.

The purpose of this policy is to detail the philosophy, structure and framework which determine how teams are selected.

1: Philosophy
Our philosophy is to 'inspire a love of sport' and we endeavour where possible for all children to represent the federation during their time with us. Representing the school can be a major motivation for some children and it is our intention to give them this experience.

As we are members of the West Berkshire Schools Sports Network (WBSSN) we have extensive opportunities for each child to compete.

We also have after-school sports clubs all of which are intended to maximise the opportunities to participate in physical activity for all children whatever their ability, and give them the opportunity to gain confidence and improve their skill levels.

Our Aims are to enable pupils to develop:
- Enthusiasm and enjoyment in sport promoting / fostering a long term love of sport
- High fitness and skill levels in a variety of sports

Social Development
- Cooperation
- Team work

- Rejecting stereotypes
- Appreciating their own and others' strengths and weaknesses
- Leadership skills

Emotional Development
- Self-Control
- Positively dealing with both failure and success
- Self esteem

Intellectual Development
- Learning specialist language and technical terms
- Measuring, timing and recording
- Problem solving
- Planning and evaluation
- Tactics and Strategy

2: Levels of Competition
Through the year, there are a variety of events with different levels of competition involved. Some of the events we intend to be competitive and others are very much exploratory, giving each child involved a taste of a sport they may not previously have experienced.

3: Values
Whenever representing the federation in any sport team, the child must adhere to our vision - for the good of all.

4: Sports Team Selection
Our Sports Team Selection Policy aims to encourage children to enjoy all aspects of sport whether it be competitive, non-competitive, team, individual or creative. This can consequently encourage participation for life, and in turn benefit health, well-being and increase social opportunities.

As well as attempting to provide for all abilities, we also recognise that we need to provide opportunities for those pupils who are gifted and talented or excel at sport. We also believe that it is unfair to select those who are not confident to compete at high levels of competition thus being the reason we offer a range of competition levels.

We are well aware that it can be very disappointing for a child when not selected for a team, but we consider many factors when forming our teams.

The following guidelines are considered:
- Our experienced and professional staff will use their expertise to select the most appropriate teams to represent the school against any given opposition.
- Any pupil representing the school can generally expect to play for some part of the match. If numbers dictate many substitutions, the time on the pitch will vary and rolling substitutions will be used.
- In some cases, teams may be mixed and the strongest team will be selected regardless of gender

- Any issues regarding team selection should be brought to the attention of the PE co-ordinator, who will address any concerns. However, the discussion will only centre on the pupil in question, as it would be unethical to discuss any pupil other than their own child.
- Lists of teams and scores will be maintained and results will be made public through a range of media (including assemblies and newsletter sport reports).
- Performance, effort and behaviour in lessons and practices
- Level of skills demonstrated
- Commitment to training and learning that sport
- Enthusiasm to learn and improve
- Level of fitness
- Understanding of games, tactics and rules
- Emotional maturity to cope with pressure
- Attitude of the player on and off the field of play
- Performance as a team member and sportsmanship
- Understanding of the importance of safety

All pupils who wish to represent the school in a team event are eligible to take part in any trials held.

For individual competition selection, for example: cross country, athletics, the pupils will usually take part in a timed trial. The pupils with the best results/times will represent the school as long as they also fulfil the criteria stated previously for "team" selection.
If your child is not chosen, please encourage them to come and practise, enjoy what they do, play and never give up. If your child is regularly chosen, help them to understand it is a privilege to represent this school. At all times it is important that the pupils understand that it is important to win and lose gracefully.

5: Role of parents/carers
Taking part in different clubs/teams (inside and outside school) contributes to each child's personal development and self-esteem. This is more important than winning. All our pupils/teams are taught the mental skills to play to "win" but not at all cost, it is important to compete/play in the right spirit and in a supportive atmosphere. It is exceptionally important for the child to understand that losing is a chance to learn.

Parents/carers and other spectators have a great influence on the children's enjoyment and success in sport. Children play sports first and foremost because they love competing/playing and having fun. Our federation is dedicated to nurturing that enjoyment and enthusiasm for sport and as a foundation for developing skills and tactics for life.

In order to achieve this, parents/carers, can support the federation as follows:
- If your child is chosen/chosen regularly, please help them to understand it is a privilege to represent the school; that their selection should never be taken for granted and relies on ongoing effort from them to maintain and develop the talent they have shown; and that they should be proud of themselves and the team they are part of.
- If your child is not chosen, please congratulate them on being prepared to compete for a place and encourage them to view this as a challenge from which they can learn

and improve their skills/performance if they apply effort and keep practising. Also encourage them to understand that competition for places will always make the team stronger and that pride in their peers' performance is a valued behaviour regardless of whether they are in the team or not.

Additionally, parents/carers and supporters who attend competitions and matches are required to behave in an appropriate manner and to support all the children in the right way, as established in our Behaviour Policy and as established – specifically for sport – in Appendix A.

Appendix A

The Fair Play Promise
Parents/carers and other spectators play a vital role in supporting children to develop healthy attitudes towards sport and competition. Most individual sports' governing bodies (e.g the FA and RFU) promote Codes of Conduct and provide advice and video clips online to support adults with this. At St Nic's we try to apply the following code of conduct.

The Fair Play Promise for Players
- Play by the rules
- Never argue with an official
- Work hard to do my best at all times
- Be a good sport and recognise good players and good play by all involved
- Remember to thank my coach, the officials, the opposition and supporters
- Help others in my team when I can
- Avoid putting people down

The Fair Play Promise for Officials
- Control the game in a fair and positive manner
- Be consistent and fair in my decisions
- Modify my approach to suit the participant's level of ability
- Help players understand the rules by explaining decisions where appropriate
- Do what I can to make sure that everyone enjoys the game - including myself
- Encourage Fair Play and not tolerate foul play of any kind and always be firm but friendly

The Fair Play Promise for Parents
- Encourage my child, and other people's children, in their efforts in sport
- Insist that my child plays within the rules and by the principles of Fair Play
- Respect my child's efforts equally regardless of whether they have won or lost
- Display self-control on the side line, always be positive and never shout at or ridicule players
- Watch my child play and let them enjoy the game
- Show my appreciation to people who volunteer their time so my child can play
- Remember that my child plays sport for their reasons not mine
- Be a positive role model for my child
- Never place undue pressure on my child to play or perform
- Make an effort to understand the rules of the game

The Fair Play Promise for Supporters

- Remember that people are involved in sport for fun and enjoyment
- Support and applaud good performance from all competitors
- Make an effort to understand the rules of the game
- Learn the difference between supportive and abusive comments and rule out the latter
- Accept the decisions of officials and coaches
- Display self-control on the side line, always be positive and never shout at or ridicule players
- Show my appreciation to people who volunteer their time to make sport happen

We hope that you support us in this policy.