



Greenway Primary School Team Selection Policy

Date approved: 10 December 2025

Date of review: Autumn Term 2026

1. Aims and Objectives

Our aims for PE and sport throughout Greenway Primary & Nursery School ('the school') are to:

- i. encourage children to enjoy all aspects of PE and sport, whether it is competitive or creative, individual or team based. This helps them to play or participate in sports and remain active throughout their lives, which has many benefits both to their health and wellbeing as well as socially.
- ii. ensure that all pupils receive 2 hours per week of quality PE and sport provision as part of the curriculum and experience competitive and non-competitive sport internally, playing many matches within lessons and at sports events.

As with other curriculum areas, pupils' attainment and progress is carefully monitored to ensure that the skills of all pupils are developed appropriately. The school perceives inter-school sports as a means of extending experience for pupils that demonstrate the requisite skills and qualities in the curriculum area.

2. Sporting Opportunities at the school

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, usually as part of a team.

In some instances, depending on the competition, there will be a limited number of places available. When this happens, we will develop trials to manage selection. However, trials will take a number of different formats, the nature of which pupils and their parents/carers should be aware, as set out in this policy.

In a very small number of instances, usually for national/league framework fixtures (like some football matches and table tennis) notice will be given to pupils and parents/carers that traditional 'open' trials, which *all pupils* are eligible to enter, are to take place and that the team will be selected on the basis of the outcome of those.

However, as members of the Dacorum School Sports Network (DSSN) - which feeds into the Hertfordshire School Games framework and ultimately to the national network of Active School Partnerships - the format of the vast majority of our competitions are established for us. This impacts on what any 'trial' sets out to achieve and so also on how trials should be run.

In 2021 the new 'reframed Hertfordshire pyramid for sporting events' was published (see Appendix B), formalising arrangements to target competitions to attract a range of different groups of children. More information about DSSN and School Games competitions can be found in the section below, but in summary their aim is to ensure seamless sport and physical activity for every young person as a bedrock to a sporting habit for life for all. In this context, traditional, 'open' trials will often not be appropriate. This is where it will be down to

Greenway staff to determine which children suit the level of competition being provided. Here, selection will be based on observation through PE and staff knowledge (about which competition level is right for which pupil) whilst adhering to the selection criteria listed below.

Even for many competitions at the new highest 'Compete' level, 'trials' to select a team will usually be undertaken as part of PE. This enables pupils to spend time developing the relevant skills (e.g. physical, emotional, team and leadership) in lessons with 'trials' coming in time as a logical assessment point. For most pupils, selection that follows a series of lessons/observations helps them to feel at ease and perform at their best. It also supports pupils in feeling eligible for selection on an equal footing with their classmates and encourages them to be more engaged with competitive sport. In addition, it best enables staff to take a differentiated approach (where that is relevant – see section below) as well as to accommodate appropriately for injuries and illnesses which 'open' trials cannot do.

For individual competition selection, for example: cross country, swimming and athletics, the pupils may be encouraged to attend training as well as being observed in PE, in advance of the 'trials'. The pupils with the best/most consistent results will usually represent the school as long as they also fulfil the criteria shown below for "team" selection.

3. DSSN and School Games competitions

At Greenway, most sports competitions and events are organised by our local Sports Partnership for Dacorum and School Games Organiser (SGO). These events are all tailored to support the School Games outcomes for the Herts School Games which are available at <https://sportinherts.org.uk/hertfordshire-school-games-n188>

In the 'reframed' School Games competition programme, sporting events are organised into 3 key categories: Inspire and Engage; Aspire and Develop; and Compete (See Appendix B). For each sporting event, the content will be tailored to these categories. Some events will contain all 3 levels of competition. In some cases, just 1 or 2 categories will be catered for. DSSN and the local SGO will determine which levels of competition each event will require and it will be the responsibility of the schools to select which children attend based on the appropriacy of the competition and levels required.

Selection for team events is based on:

- Level of competition: Inspire and Engage; Aspire and Develop; and/or Compete
- Performance, effort and behaviour in lessons and practices
- Level of skills demonstrated
- Commitment to training and learning the identified sport
- Enthusiasm to learn and improve
- Level of fitness
- Understanding of games, tactics and rules
- Emotional maturity to cope with the pressure
- Attitude of player on and off the field of play

- How the player presents themselves (dress, manners, helpfulness, sportsmanship, etc.)
- Performance as a team member
- Understanding of the importance of safety

Children's behaviour and attitudes to learning are integral to their selection. Where possible, school staff aim to select children who have earned the right to be selected as a result of their attitudes to learning and behaviours in school (in class, in Breakfast Club, Wacky and all other after school clubs). Where children have not shown appropriate behaviour choices and positive attitudes to learning, this may lead to children not being selected. This is at the discretion of school staff. For further details on behaviours and attitudes to learning please see the school's Pupil Behaviour Policy.

4. Differentiated Responses

In some cases, a differentiated response is required to determine whether the level of competition is appropriate for the learner. These instances will be managed on an individual basis to support the individual learner's needs. It may be necessary to restrict, remove or alter the sporting event to benefit the needs of an individual. See the school's Pupil Behaviour Policy for how differentiated responses are used to support behaviour.

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 play to "win" but not at any cost as it is important to compete/play in the right spirit and in a supportive atmosphere. We know that this is how children feel too – see Youth Sport Trust's short YouTube video '[Reframe Competition](#)' where children explain what they do and don't like about competitive sport at school.

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. Greenway 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 school 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 the school's Pupil Behaviour Policy and as established – specifically for sport – in Appendix A attached.
- are asked to understand and take responsibility for the part they can play in supporting school with the safeguarding of all pupils; if you observe anything that is of concern to you (i.e. behaviour from any child or adult that you do not think meets the requirements set out in this policy) please raise that with the school member of staff present (or afterwards with the Headteacher) so that they can address the concern appropriately.

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. Greenway Primary & Nursery School is a member of the Dacorum School Sports Network (DSSN) and as such, we abide by their Code which is known as the Fair Play Promise and which is set out below.

Good sport is about positive attitude. You can set the right tone and help make the game a success. Play your part - play fair!

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 or bullying them

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 s/he has won or lost
- Display self-control on the sideline, always be positive and never shout at or ridicule players
- Watch my child play and let him/her enjoy the game
- Show my appreciation to people who volunteer their time so my child can play
- Remember that my child plays sport for his/her 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 sideline, always be positive and never shout at or ridicule players
- Show my appreciation to people who volunteer their time to make sport happen

Leadership & Learning



HERTFORDSHIRE SCHOOL GAMES

Mission: Putting physical activity and competitive sport at the heart of schools and providing more young people with the opportunity to compete and achieve their personal best

Hertfordshire School Games events will take place under one of the sections of the pyramid to ensure all young people are able to access competitions at the right level to ensure maximum enjoyment and a positive experience . All events will be underpinned by the School Games values and allow opportunities for young people to develop and enhance their knowledge , understanding and apply their leadership skills

