



Ashdene Primary School

Team Selection Policy

Responsible Person
PE Subject Leader

PE and sport throughout Ashdene is inclusive and we aim to encourage pupils to enjoy all aspects, whether it is competitive or creative, individual or team based. We want children to play or participate in sports and remain active throughout their lives. This has many benefits both to their mental and physical health and wellbeing, as well as socially.

As a school, we enter many matches, festivals and tournaments (both competitive and noncompetitive) through the Macclesfield Schools Sports Partnership (MSSP), the Wilmslow Educational Partnership (WEP) and independent clubs/organisations. All staff involved, recognise the need for an inclusive approach that enables as many children as possible to experience competitive sport and to represent the school. Sports events and competitions often have a limited number of places available and therefore school staff have to select a team to attend.

How Teams Will Be Selected

For some of the matches, festivals and tournaments such as the Year 5/6 football and netball leagues and the annual cross-country event, trials will be held. These will give the pupils a fair opportunity to demonstrate their aptitude, skills and sportsmanship in the hope of being selected. If a pupil does not attend the trials, they may not be considered for the team selection.

For some events such as one-off tournaments, trials may not be held due to the availability of time, staffing and resources. The decision as to whether trials will be held will be made by the PE subject leader.

Where trials are not held, some of the following may be taken into consideration by the class teacher/PE subject leader when selecting teams (this list is not exhaustive):

- Performance, effort, attitude and behaviour in lessons
- Level of skills demonstrated in PE lessons and extra-curricular clubs
- 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 – adhering to Ashdene’s RESPECT values
- How the player presents themselves e.g. dress, manners, helpfulness, sportsmanship
- Performance as a team member
- Discussions with/observations by the PE specialists/coaches

Time and consideration goes into team selection which is the responsibility of Ashdene staff. The decisions made are final and school will not enter into discussions with parents/carers regarding teams that have been chosen.

Types of Teams

Depending on the event, different types of teams may be selected.

- First teams - These will be the strongest teams available and some children, especially as Ashdene is a two-form entry school, may not have the opportunity to play at first team level.
- B and C teams - These teams may be selected (depending on the event) to maximise opportunities to represent the school. These may be made up of pupils who are not at the A team level or who would like to further their experience in a given sport.
- Festival Teams - These teams may be selected for a range of reasons such as to develop resilience, communication skills, teamwork and confidence and to maximise opportunities to represent the school.

Role of parents/carers

Taking part in different teams (inside and outside school) contributes to pupils' personal development and self-esteem. This is more important than winning. All our pupils and teams in competitive events play to "win" but not at any cost. It is important to play in the right spirit and in a supportive atmosphere. Parents/carers and other spectators have a great influence on the pupils' enjoyment and success in sport. Ashdene is dedicated to nurturing this enjoyment and enthusiasm for sport as a foundation for developing skills and tactics for life.

To achieve this, parents/carers, are expected to support school as follows:

- If your child is chosen, 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.
- Encourage your child 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.
- 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, our school ethos and our RESPECT values.