



St Peter's Smithills Dean CE Primary School

School Sports Competition Policy

Linked to the School Games Values in England and our own vision of 'Let Your Light Shine'

1. Purpose and Vision

At St Peter's Smithills Dean CE Primary School, we believe that every child is uniquely created and called to *let their light shine* (Matthew 5:16). Through high-quality, inclusive and meaningful sporting opportunities, we aim to nurture children's physical wellbeing, confidence, character and sense of community.

Our sports provision is rooted in our Christian vision and guided by our core school values:

- **Love** – encouraging kindness, care and encouragement for all
- **Trust** – building confidence in ourselves and others
- **Hope** – inspiring aspiration, resilience and perseverance
- **Thankfulness** – valuing opportunity, effort and achievement
- **Respect** – for ourselves, others, officials and the wider community

We align our approach with the School Games framework, ensuring that physical activity and sport support physical literacy, teamwork, personal development and positive wellbeing. Children are encouraged to compete with integrity, humility and joy, reflecting our vision and values in all they do.

2. Types of Sporting Events

Pupils at St Peter's Smithills Dean CE Primary School will have access to a wide range of competitive and non-competitive sporting opportunities, including:

- **Festivals and Taster Sessions** – participation-based events that prioritise enjoyment, confidence-building and exploration of new sports.
- **Intra-school (Level 1) Competitions** – house team or class-based activities that promote teamwork, fairness and inclusion.
- **Inter-school (Level 2) Competitions** – events against local schools, coordinated by our School Games Organiser (SGO).
- **County Finals (Level 3)** – for pupils who progress through competitive pathways.
- **Inclusive Sport Events (Panathlon, SEND Festivals)** – tailored opportunities that ensure all children can shine and succeed.

3. Competition Pathways and Selection Criteria

To ensure fairness, inclusion and appropriate challenge, children are selected for sporting events based on need, readiness, ability, attitude and the level of competition. We follow the **Excel, Aspire, Be Proud and Panathlon** model:

Excel Pathway

High-level competitive events for children who have demonstrated exceptional skill, commitment and behaviour. These events may be outcome-focused and aim to give the school the strongest chance of success. Due to team-size limitations, some children may represent the school more frequently than others.

Aspire Pathway

Development-focused opportunities for children showing enthusiasm, potential and effort in PE and school sport. This pathway supports confidence-building and progression, particularly where numbers limit participation in Excel events.

Be Proud Pathway

Celebrates participation, enjoyment and sportsmanship. These events prioritise involvement and reflect children who consistently demonstrate positive attitudes and the Spirit of the Games.

Panathlon Pathway

Fully inclusive competitions designed for pupils with SEND. At St Peter's Smithills Dean, we aim for all pupils with SEND to access at least one inclusive sporting opportunity each academic year.

4. Spirit of the Games: Behaviour and Conduct

All sporting opportunities reflect the Spirit of the Games and our school values.

Representing the school is a privilege, and pupils are expected to *let their light shine* through their conduct, attitude and behaviour.

Behaviour Expectations

- Follow school rules and the PE code of conduct at all times.
- Show positive attitudes in lessons and wider school life.
- Demonstrate love, respect and good sportsmanship towards peers, adults and officials.
- Listen carefully to adults and respond appropriately.
- Treat all equipment and school facilities with care and thankfulness.

Teacher and Coach Discretion

Teachers and coaches reserve the right to:

- Withhold or withdraw participation if behaviour or attitude does not align with school values or School Games expectations.
- Select pupils based on readiness and suitability for the level of competition.

If a child is unable to take part in a competition, the class teacher will inform parents and the PE Lead, outlining the reasons. A pupil may also be withdrawn from an event even after consent has been given; parents will be notified as soon as possible.

5. Parental Queries and Communication

Step 1: Parents are encouraged to read this policy to understand possible reasons for non-selection. If behaviour-related, parents will be informed.

Step 2: If further discussion is needed, parents should contact the school office to arrange a respectful conversation with the class teacher. Teachers will not engage in email correspondence on selection decisions to avoid misunderstanding.

Step 3: If concerns remain, a meeting may be arranged with the PE and School Sports Lead, class teacher and parent. The final decision regarding participation remains with the school.

Step 4: All discussions will be logged on our behaviour management system (Arbor) for future reference.

Step 5: Where behaviour has led to withdrawal, pupils must meet the expectations of the school behaviour policy before returning to competition. Persistent concerns may result in longer-term withdrawal until restorative approaches have been successfully applied.

6. Selection Process

At St Peter's, we track every child's participation in active events from Year 1 onwards to help ensure all pupils have fair and meaningful opportunities to take part throughout their time at school.

Selection for some events varies depending on the purpose and level of competition, as outlined in Section 3. This is particularly relevant for Excel events, where standards are high and schools are expected to select pupils with the skills and readiness to compete successfully.

We are committed to placing children in events that are appropriate for them and will not select pupils for competitions where they may feel uncomfortable or unable to compete confidently. Participation is always encouraged but never forced; if a child consistently chooses not to take part, staff may work with parents to identify activities where the child feels more confident and willing to participate.

For Excel events, some pupils may be selected more frequently due to demonstrated skill, commitment and suitability for that level of competition. We recognise this may feel challenging at times, but hope parents and carers understand the rationale and support children in appreciating the different pathways available.

That said, in many cases, non-selection is due to limitations on team size or entry numbers. Where this happens, staff will endeavour to provide alternative opportunities later in the school year through our whole-school sporting calendar

7. Role of the School Games Organiser (SGO)

We work closely with our SGO to:

- Access high-quality, inclusive and competitive events.
- Support staff professional development.
- Deliver a sustainable and values-driven sports offer aligned with the School Games framework.

8. School Games Mark

Participation in the School Games Mark supports continuous improvement. We aim to:

- Engage a high proportion of pupils in regular physical activity.
- Offer opportunities across all participation pathways.
- Celebrate achievement, effort and personal growth.
- Uphold both the School Games values and our Christian school values in all sporting activity.

9. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the PE Coordinator and Senior Leadership Team to ensure alignment with:

- School Games guidance
- DfE expectations for PE and school sport
- Feedback from pupils, parents and staff

Approved by: Mr. M. Harding (*Headteacher and PE/Sports Lead*)

Date: January 2026

Next Review: September 2027