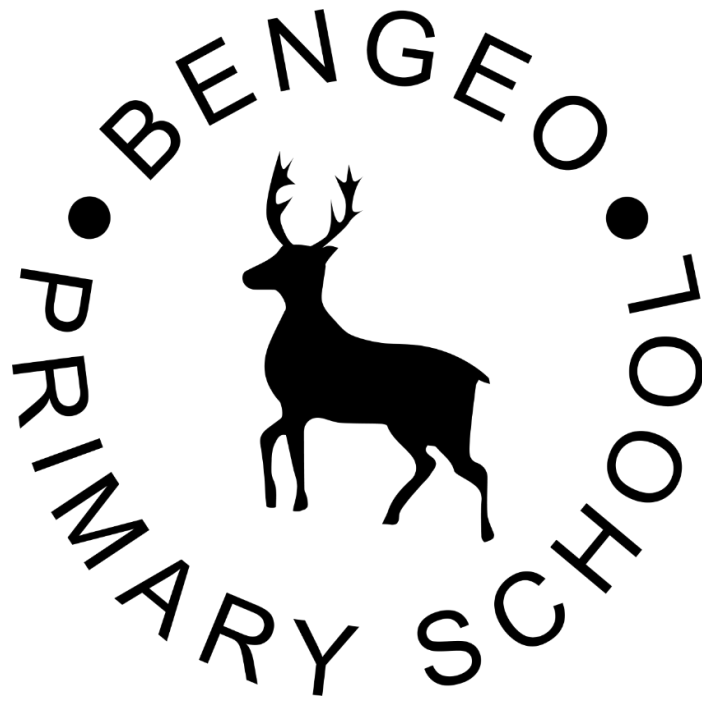


BENGEO PRIMARY SCHOOL



Sports Team Selection policy

Reviewed: Autumn 2024

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Authorised by: Headteacher

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Sports Selection Policy

Overview

Bengeo School are part of the Hertford and Ware School Sports Partnership which means we are invited to attend a variety of sporting events: fixtures, festivals, competitions and development days. The events are described as: 'inspire & engage' or 'compete'.

Our Sports Team Selection Policy throughout the school aims to encourage pupils to enjoy all aspects of sport whether it is 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.

We want to raise the profile of sport and opportunities for children and do our best to attend the events but unfortunately there are some barriers that can arise: staffing, rules, number of pupils to attend, opposition availability, travel arrangements and in some cases readiness and ability to play.

Extra-curricular offer

We include a broad range of sports on offer within our curriculum to allow children to experience a variety of sports and physical activity and this is reflected in the events and clubs that we run externally. Some of these are paid clubs and some of these are voluntarily run by school staff.

We have a number of clubs on offer:

KS2 Badminton – various lunchtimes

Year 5 and 6 Basketball - Monday

KS1 football – Monday

Year 3 and 4 dance – Monday

Netball UKS2 (priority to yr6) Tuesday lunchtime

Running club KS2 Wednesday mornings (opportunity to open up to KS1)

KS1 dance – Wednesday

Football mixed UKS2 (priority to yr6) Wednesday lunchtime

KS2 Football – Wednesday

Year 2 Tennis – Thursday

It's important to us that all children, whatever their ability, have access to our sports clubs; which is why we don't hold trials and mass participation is encouraged (with a limit on numbers due to space and staffing).

There are external, extra-curricular sports events and competitions that occur throughout the year for various year groups. We will choose to attend events that suit our children and their interests, the availability of staffing on that date, location of event and the number of children able to participate. We will not attend every event that is offered for the above reasons.

Selection process

If the event is a 'compete' event with a pathway to finals we will be selecting our strongest competitors. There are 'compete' events where we will widen our selection based on the guidance below. The netball and football matches are 'friendlies' and we aim to include all participants of the club to have an opportunity to play in a match. We are aware that it can be very disappointing for a pupil 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.**
- Performance, effort and behaviour in all lessons and practices
- Level of skills demonstrated
- Commitment to training and learning that particular sport
- Enthusiasm to learn and improve
- Level of fitness
- Understanding of games, tactics and rules
- Playing positions required
- Emotional maturity
- Resilient and positive 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

All pupils who wish to represent the school in a team event will be considered during training sessions and P.E. lessons.

Parent involvement

When there is an upcoming event children will be asked if they wish to be considered. Teachers will then make decisions on which children to take part. The netball and football decisions will be made by the coach running the club. The other sports events will be made by the class teacher within PE lessons and they may then be invited to some additional training sessions if applicable at break or lunchtimes.

In the event of there not being enough children to choose from for a particular team, the coach will select eligible children who have experience of matches within that sport outside of school and have excellent understanding of the sport in PE lessons.

We will endeavour for fixture and event letters for any sport to be sent out a minimum of 3 days before the game. This communication will continue to be conducted via google forms and we require this to be completed in order for your child to attend the event. If your child is on our first reserve list we may contact by phone at shorter notice to gain permission.

We will also indicate that your child will need to have travel arrangements in place both to and from the event. This can be arranged between families so that an adult can drive a group of children. We understand that lots of the events are within the school day and many parents are working and may not be able to support. If this is the case then you may need to arrange a lift share in order for your child to attend.

We do require a response if your child can or can not attend so that we can invite another child to take their place at the event. We will aim to make further contact by telephone but if we have not heard back from parents or carers then we will have to inform you that a lack of response has resulted in your child being unable to attend in this instance as we are required to invite another child in order to take part.

If your child is not chosen, please encourage them to come and practise, enjoy what they do. As a school we promote readiness, resilience and responsibility to school life, including sporting activities. 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 be gracious in defeat and humble in our victories; showing good 'sportspersonship'.

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. A pupil can always observe and evaluate an individual/team that they may lose too and consider why they won.

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. Bengeo School 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 school as follows:

- Respond to sports invites stating whether your child can or cannot attend
- Offer availability to lift share if possible
- 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
- Encourage players and spectators to be gracious in defeat and humble in victory

Additionally, parents/carers and supporters who attend competitions and matches are required to behave in an appropriate and polite and supportive manner to children, staff and other spectators. The referee's decision should be respected at all times to support all the children in the right way.