



# **Wingate Primary School**

## **Competition Policy**

**September 2025**

**Approved by:**

Rachel Wilson

**Date: September 2025**

**Next review due by:**

September 2026

## **Role of School**

Our PE policy throughout the school is to 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 throughout their lives, which has many benefits both to their health as well as socially.

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. Throughout the year, we also organise Year Group Sporting Competitions to give more pupils the chance of participating in competitive sporting competition.

## **Selection Criterion for sports teams**

Before each tournament, we will hold "trials". Pupils are invited to attend an after-school trial. Teachers observe these trials and it is from these sessions that decisions are made on which pupils represent the school. Once the team(s) is chosen, we will then inform pupils and parents/carers. Children may then be asked to attend training.

This criterion varies from fixture to fixture and is hugely dependent on the level of competition, as well as the number of children that we are allowed to take to events. Many of the competitions that we enter are of a high standard, with opposition being extremely competent in terms of skill level, knowledge of rules, tactical knowledge, strength and speed.

For these tournaments the selection criterion for team events is based on:

- Level of skill demonstrated
- Level of fitness
- Understanding of games, tactics and rules
- Enthusiasm to learn and improve
- Emotional maturity to cope with the pressure
- Commitment to training and learning

For tournaments that take place within our cluster of schools, the selection criteria takes into account other aspects:

- Commitment to training and learning
- Enthusiasm to learn and improve
- Participation rate in previous inter-school tournaments
- Level of skill demonstrated
- Level of fitness
- Understanding of games, tactics and rules
- Emotional maturity to cope with the pressure

Representing the school team is also dependent on the following things:

- *Performance, effort and behaviour in lessons, trials and practices*
- *Attitude of player on and off the field of play*
- *How the player presents themselves: dress, manners, helpfulness, sportsmanship, etc.*
- *A team player*
- *Understanding of the importance of safety*

For all individual competition selection, for example: cross country, athletics, and indoor athletics, the pupils are selected from trials during lessons. The pupils with the best results/times/distances represent the school (unless it is a non-competitive event) as long as they also fulfil the criteria stated above that are in italics. When picking a team, the teacher who is acting as the coach then liaises with the PE lead. For some events, teachers may hold before or after school clubs and select a team from those who attend.

## **Selection for School Teams**

In an ideal world, we would love to give every child the opportunity to represent the school in every competition that we enter. However, due to circumstances beyond our control (usually squad size restrictions) this is not possible. The decision of which children to select is never an easy one and many conversations take place to ensure that choices are fair and just. We also have to consider the level of the competition that the team will be facing and select children accordingly.

Where there is an issue with a child's behaviour and they are not selected due to non-sporting reasons (the criterion in italics relating to behaviour and sportsmanship), this must be initially shared with the Headteacher. It must be explained to the pupil the reasons behind the decision and the improvements the school expects to see in the future. Parents/carers may also be informed. Once improvements are observed in school, then the pupil may once again be considered for selection in future events.

Whenever numbers and rules allow, we will always attempt to enter more than one team in a competition in order to allow as many children as possible to compete. Wingate Primary has high participation rates in sport and we are proud that **all** children are given many sporting opportunities – not just inter-school competitions but also intra-school competitions: after-school clubs, sport and health weeks and Year Group competitions.

## **Role of Parents**

We think our policy is equitable and would like to thank parents/carers in advance for supporting us as follows:-

- If your child is regularly chosen for a team, please help them to understand it is a privilege to represent the school and they should be proud of themselves.
- If your child is not chosen, encourage them to keep coming to after-school clubs and trials and enjoy what they do with the club; they are still part of the success of their team mates, it is good to develop social skills and is also a good way of keeping fit and healthy.

Parents/carers and children also need to be aware that sometimes other children may be chosen to represent school to allow them to have these experiences as well.

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

We believe that taking part in a club contributes to each child's personal development and self-esteem. This is more important than winning matches. All our teams play to "win" but not at any cost. It is important to play in the right spirit and in a supportive atmosphere, reflecting our role as a Gold Rights Respecting School.

In order to achieve this result, we rely heavily on the parents/carers and supporters who attend matches to behave in an appropriate manner, to respect team selection and support all the children in the right way, following our Adult Charter at all times.

## **Behaviour**

At Wingate Primary School, we set high expectations for behaviour and we uphold strong standards for the conduct of the children. When there is an issue with a child's behaviour (either in the classroom or in sporting activities) and, as a result the child is not selected to represent the school, this will be shared with the class teacher and Headteacher. Staff will explain to the child the reasons behind the decision and the improvements the school expects to see in the future. Parents/carers may also be informed. Once improvements in behaviour are observed in school, only then can the child be considered once again for selection in future events.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Binks, Headteacher.