

Handcross Park School

Sports Policy

Introduction

We believe that physical education and sport should be an essential part of each child's education. Here at Handcross Park School, our aim is for every child to achieve enjoyment and success at sport. Through this success we can promote health, wellbeing, confidence, team work and social skills, all of which have a positive effect on the overall education of each child. The pupils at Handcross Park receive a minimum of three games lessons per week in addition to school matches on a Wednesday. Additionally, pupils receive one PE lesson per week which focuses on more individual activities such as swimming and gymnastics.

Sports available at Handcross Park include, Football, Netball, Rugby, Hockey, Cross-Country, Tennis, Rounders, Swimming, Gymnastics, Athletics and Cricket. Additionally, pupils have the opportunity to experience dance, trampolining, judo, athletics and others. The lessons are delivered by subject specialists and individually tailored to the abilities of the children from Nursery through to Year 8, thus giving the children the maximum opportunity to achieve their personal goals.

All children take part in inter-house tournaments as well as the annual School Sports Day, where they compete on behalf of their houses. Pupils are also encouraged to join outside clubs when appropriate, which further improves their development.

Handcross Park School's teams regularly compete against other schools at all age groups, from around the region. Our school teams have achieved success at county and regional levels and many pupils have gone on to play for county teams in various sports, some going on to play at high levels.

At Handcross Park, we believe in competitive sport and that as many children as possible should have the opportunity to take part in team sports appropriate to their skill level. In essence we celebrate excellence but also participation.

Sporting Ethos

All teams (at all levels) are encouraged to take to their matches with a winning attitude. Team sports at Handcross Park are compulsory for all pupils. In exceptional circumstances, the Headmaster may allow a pupil not to participate in a certain sport, in the best interests of the pupil concerned. Pupils, staff and parents are all encouraged to demonstrate good sportsmanship, which should underpin everything that takes place on the sports pitches and Handcross Park is committed to gaining a reputation for fair play. The school believes that sports matches invariably result in there being a winner and a loser and that essential learning / education is achieved through this experience. Pupils are taught to be humble in victory and gracious in defeat and to remember the importance of how they conduct themselves, before, during and after each match. Arguing with officials for example is not tolerated.

Selection

Teams are selected on ability from Under 9 through to Under 13s (Years 3 – 8), but we do our best to ensure that fixtures are arranged at all skill levels, to ensure as many children experience being part of a team.

Selection for teams can be contentious and coaches should consider the implications of selecting each pupil very carefully. Whilst coaches will always communicate with parents where necessary, they will carry out their selection based upon the detail laid out in this policy. The school will always support the selection made by the coaches.

If children are unable to attend Games, the Coach will use his or her discretion in terms of team selection. Coaches will discuss this with the player concerned and use their discretion in terms of selection. Encouragement and support should be the starting point in the relationship between coach and player.

Substitutions

It is often necessary to have substitutes for certain matches. This not only enables teams to have cover in case of injury, but allows Coaches to watch players and provide them with an opportunity to play up a level. As a general rule, coaches are encouraged to play their substitutes and will do so on a 'roll on, roll off' basis throughout the match. This enables the children to get more match play during anyone game. During tournaments Coaches may decide to rotate subs through the different matches in the schedule rather than during each game.

Captains

Leadership is part of a child's education and whilst not all children can be selected to Captain their teams, those that are have a responsible job. Coaches are encouraged to teach children their responsibilities as Captain and to ensure they carry out their duties with pride and loyalty.

Coaches are encouraged to rotate their Captains throughout the season in the teams selected from Years 3 to 6. In Years 7 and 8 the First Team Captains are often permanently selected for the season and Captains for the 2nd and 3rd Teams are selected at the Coach's discretion and can also be rotated through the season.

Kit and games equipment

The children are issued with a kit list that includes all the kit that they will need for the variety of sports and activities which they participate in. It is expected that they purchase, name and loop each item and it is their responsibility to look after all their kit. The children are also responsible for their area in the changing room and their allocated locker.

The following points are have been outlined to guide pupils, staff, coaches, parents and spectators as to what the expectations are of sport at Handcross Park.

Coaches / Teachers

- Schools have a responsibility to ensure that hired professional coaches, gap students and any other adult helpers use appropriate language and behaviour when working with young children and commit fully to the spirit of this code and practice.
- Coaches must be reasonable in their demands on children's time, energy and enthusiasm – they need other interests.
- Children play for fun and enjoyment and winning is only part of this. Never ridicule or shout at children for making mistakes or losing a competition.
- Coaches should make a personal commitment to keep themselves informed on sound coaching principles and the principles of children's growth and development.
- Players should be grouped according to their age, height, skill and physical maturity where appropriate.
- Coaches should try to arrange an appropriate balance between practice and fixtures – giving opportunity so all children who wish to participate without over playing the most able.
- Those responsible for entering IAPS sponsored tournaments should be aware of the effort that goes into their organisation.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the players.
- Teach players that the rules of the game are for their own safety and should be respected at all times.
- Ensure that players respect the ability of their opponents and the judgement of match officials.
- All coaches/teachers should be fully conversant with the school child protection procedures and be CRB checked as required.

Match Officials

All match officials should: -

- Do their utmost to ensure that the players enjoy the experience of playing for their school.
- Be a positive role model and lead by example.
- Keep up-to-date with refereeing/umpiring qualifications and practises in their sport as well any changes in playing regulations.
- Recognise that the safety of players is paramount.
- Explain their decisions clearly and concisely, remembering at all times to be fair and unbiased.
- Refuse to tolerant or condone foul play of any kind.
- Emphasise the spirit and the ethos of the game.
- Take time to speak to players and coaches after the game.

Code of Conduct for players

- Learn and play by the Rules.
- Play for fun and enjoyment - not just to please your parents and/or teacher.
- Be a good sport - win with modesty and lose with dignity.
- Recognise and applaud all good play.
- Respect teachers, team mates, opponents, officials and their decisions - treat them as you would like to be treated.
- Arrive for training and matches in good time to prepare thoroughly & with proper kit.
- Always warm up and cool down properly.
- Inform the coach of any injury as soon as possible.
- Inform the coach if you will be late or need to leave early.
- Inform the coach in good time if you are unavailable for any match.

Code of Conduct for parents, carers and spectators

Parents are actively encouraged to come and support their children at inter school matches and any other school sporting event they are invited to (Triathlon, Sports Day, Cross-country for example). The support of parents is essential to ensure sport at Handcross Park continues to grow and develop and we very much appreciate all that parents do for the school in this regard. Positive reinforcement of sport and support for the children will further help to strengthen our community.

In the spirit of competition and fair play for all:

PLEASE:

- Encourage your child to learn and play by the rules.
- Respect the opinions and decisions of officials, coaches and managers.
- Encourage children to play, do not force them.
- Discourage unfair play and arguing with officials and players.
- Praise your child's efforts, whether they win or lose.
- Get to know your child's coach/manager.
- Set a good example by recognising and applauding all good play
- Use proper language at all times.

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM:

- Coaching from the side-lines.
- Punishing, ridiculing or belittling a child for losing or making mistakes.

FINALLY

- Please keep dogs on a short lead at all times.

Conclusion

Sport at Handcross Park is primarily for enjoyment for the pupils. It is an important part of their education and for all children to actively participate in. Our policy outlines how sport is run at the school and is designed to provide clarity for parents, pupils and staff alike. So

much positive education can come from sport and it plays a vital part in the overall educational experience of all the children.