

## Team selection policy

Our sports team selection policy throughout the school aims to encourage students to enjoy all aspects of sport and physical activity whether it is competitive, creative or individual in nature.

RPS play many competitive matches at all levels and while we would like nothing more than to include every student who is committed to school sport, this is simply not possible all of the time.

It is our aim that all students who are fully committed should represent the school in some way at some point through their RPS lives. This said, selecting students before they are ready to perform confidently at the level required can serve to dent confidence, which is exactly the opposite of what we are trying to achieve. As a result, suitability for all opposition and competition levels will be assessed as an on-going process.

In order to maximise opportunity for students of all abilities to represent the school, additional friendlies and fixtures against slightly weaker opposition will be organised where possible. However this depends heavily on time available and staffing constraints.

There will also be an ethos of playing some mixed ability groups in non cup/league fixtures when appropriate. This will obviously be balanced with remaining competitive within the fixture itself.

### The following guidelines will apply:

- Our experienced and professional staff will use their judgement when selecting the most appropriate team for a given fixture.
- First teams will be the strongest team available and some students, particularly in larger year groups, may not have the opportunity to play at first team level.
- When possible and appropriate, B and C team fixtures will be arranged in order to maximise opportunity to represent the school.
- General school behaviour, attitude and performance in training are all likely to be taken into account when selecting teams.
- Substitutions may provide the opportunity for students to gain playing time, but these will be made at the discretion of staff and will consider a wide range of variables (including what is best for the team/school, level of competition, state of the game).

### Guidance for students:

- Students should never “expect” to be selected and should always consider how their behaviour is linked to selection and non-selection may impact on those around them.
- Students should display sportsmanship and school pride. In doing so, they should place what is considered best for their team/squad/school above what may appear best for them individually.

We hope that all students, parents/carers and supporters will understand the points in this policy and will support us in its execution. If your child is not selected, please encourage them to show perseverance, work on their skills, maintain a ‘can do’ attitude and push forward towards future selection and involvement.

Concerns with selection or extra-curricular involvement generally can be brought to team staff or the Head of PE. In the first instance, we would encourage students to discuss concerns that they may have with staff themselves.