

# Riverside Primary School

*Where everyone matters and every day counts*



## Sports Team Selection Policy

Agreed September 2025

Review September 2027

## Our Commitment

At Riverside Primary School, we believe sport is vital for learning, growth and personal development. Our team selection process reflects the school's STAR values: Strive, Tolerance, Achieve, and Resilience. We are committed to providing inclusive, fair and meaningful opportunities for all children to participate in competitive and developmental sports throughout their time at Riverside.

## Guiding Principles

### 1. Merit-Based Selection for League Teams

Pupils representing Riverside in league competitions will be selected on the basis of ability, fitness, tactical awareness, attitude and behaviour. These teams reflect a high standard of competition and selection will be competitive and performance-driven.

### 2. Inclusive Approach for Other Fixtures

Where competitions are not league-based, the school will adopt a more inclusive approach offering broader opportunities for participation. These events provide valuable experience and promote enjoyment, teamwork and skill development for all pupils.

## Selection Criteria

Selection for all sports events and teams will be based on the following:

- **Skill and Physical Competence:** Demonstrated ability in relevant sporting skills and understanding of the rules and tactics of the game.
- **Commitment:** Consistent effort and attendance in PE lessons, training sessions and extracurricular sports clubs.
- **Teamwork:** Willingness to work collaboratively, support others, and demonstrate positive team spirit.
- **Behaviour and Conduct:**
  - Positive behaviour in lessons, around school and during sports activities is a key factor in selection.
  - Pupils must show respect to adults and peers, follow instructions and uphold the school's values on and off the field.
  - Good manners, helpfulness and sportsmanship are essential.
  - Disruptive, unsafe, or disrespectful behaviour may result in non-selection or removal from a team, regardless of ability.
- **Emotional Maturity:** Capacity to cope with the pressures of competition and demonstrate resilience in challenging situations.
- **Presentation and Safety Awareness:** Appropriate dress, readiness to follow safety protocols and general preparedness.

## **Equal Opportunities and Participation**

- It is our intention that every pupil who wishes to represent the school in sport will have the opportunity to do so at least once during their time at Riverside Primary.
- Attendance at before school, lunchtime, or after-school clubs is encouraged and taken into account when selecting pupils.
- Records are kept of participation and attendance to help ensure a fair and balanced approach over time.

## **Selection Process**

- Team selection will be made by the PE Lead, specialist sports teachers and external coaches where appropriate.
- Selection will be based on professional judgement, using the above criteria and knowledge of pupils from PE lessons, training, and behaviour records.
- Substitutes will usually participate in part of the match unless competition regulations or safety concerns prevent this.
- Pupils and parents are informed of the selection process and criteria.
- Selected teams may be shared through newsletters, the school website, or in assemblies, subject to photo permission.

## **External Opportunities**

- The school is not informed in advance of the presence of external scouts at competitions.
- Should a scout approach the school regarding a pupil, selection for referral will be based solely on merit and performance.

## **Final Decisions**

While we strive for fairness and transparency in team selection, it is not always possible to meet the preferences of every pupil or parent. Final decisions regarding team selection rest with the school staff. These decisions are made in the best interests of all pupils and reflect the values and standards of Riverside Primary School.

## **Appendix A**

### **Football School Sports Teams and Competitions**

#### **Rayleigh League**

*The Rayleigh Team will compete in matches against other local schools in the Rayleigh area, including Grove Wood Primary, Downhall, Edward Francis Primary School, Rayleigh Primary School, and Our Lady of Lourdes. This is a **competitive league**.*

*Children selected for the Rayleigh Team may also be chosen to participate in a local tournament in Southend. As places are limited, it is not possible for every child to attend. **Priority will be given to pupils in Year 6 over Year 5**, irrespective of playing ability.*

#### **Champions Cup Team**

*The Champions Cup Team will play matches against other local schools, including those in Southend, that are not currently part of the Rayleigh Team league. This is a **friendly league**, intended to provide broader opportunities for participation and development.*