

Fairview Primary School



Teams and Representation Policy

Date Ratified: January 2026
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To Be Reviewed: August 2029

Sports Teams and Representation Policy

In Fairview Primary School, a wide range of after-school sports and activities are offered by staff and external providers. These 'clubs' offer our pupils an opportunity to be involved in activities over and beyond the NI Curriculum. Each club offered will be available to certain year groups, with a wider range of clubs available to pupils in Primary 6 and Primary 7.

Choir

Fairview Primary School has a Junior Choir and a Senior Choir. Both choirs are led by experienced musicians and have the aim of achieving the highest possible musical standards. Our Junior Choir and Senior Choir will compete in festivals (and on occasion competitions) across Northern Ireland, as well as represent the school at various local events. Some events will be outside school hours and it is expected pupils (via their parent or carer) in the choir will make every effort to be in attendance.

Pupils must audition to be offered a place in choir. Pupils will normally audition in front of a group of other pupils, as well as the choir leader. A score will be given (not shared with the pupil) based on levels of musicality. A minimum standard is required to be offered a place in the choir. While we understand it will be disappointing for those who do not get offered a place, the staff in charge will ensure pupils in this position are informed in a sensitive manner. Pupils may audition the following year if they so desire. Once in the choir, pupils do not need to audition the following year, with the exception of moving from Junior Choir in Primary 4 to Senior Choir in Primary 5. Pupils do not need to have been in Junior Choir to audition for Senior Choir.

Sports Clubs

Our aims for sport throughout the school are to:

- encourage children to enjoy all aspects of sport, whether competitive or creative, individual or team based. This helps them to play or participate in sports and remain active throughout their lives, which has many benefits both to their health and well-being as well as socially.

A wide range of sports are available to pupils in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. After-school sports in Key Stage 1 are offered by external providers. In Key Stage 2, school staff offer:

- Primary 5 Football
- Primary 6/7 Football
- Primary 6/7 Girls' Football
- Primary 6/7 Rugby
- Primary 6/7 Hockey
- Primary 6/7 Netball
- Primary 6/7 Cricket
- Primary 6/7 Dance

All the above sports are available for children in the appropriate year group to participate in. As with other curriculum areas, pupils' attainment and progress is carefully monitored to ensure that the skills of all pupils are developed appropriately.

Fairview Primary School perceives interschool sports as a means of extending experience for pupils that demonstrate the requisite skills and qualities in the particular sport. 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, usually as part of a team.

In some instances, depending on the competition, there will be a limited number of places available. When this happens, the teacher in charge of the sport will pick what he/she perceives to be the most competitive team of players, based on what has been seen at the club. It should be noted that attitude and behaviour will form part of the decision. The teacher in charge will inform those who have been selected either on a club day (ideally) or by note distributed to the pupils' classroom. Participants in the club will regularly be informed that non-selection does not mean selection will not be made in the future. The teacher in charge of the club will often discuss with participants what he/she is looking for in a team player, and depending on numbers not every participant will get the opportunity to represent the school team. Picking teams can be a huge challenge and parents/carers are asked to respect and support the teacher's decision no matter how disappointed they may be for their child. Parents/carers may wish to seek clarification as to why their child has not been selected and they are welcome to do so in a respectful manner, as per the Parental Code of Conduct and Communication Policies.

In order to achieve all of the above, parents/carers can support school as follows:

- 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. Parents/carers are encouraged to come and support the team, and at times may be required to transport participants to a match/competition. At all times, parents/carers must respect the referee/umpire.
- 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. Also encourage them to understand that competition for places will always make the team stronger and that pride in their peers' performance is a valued behaviour regardless of whether they are in the team or not.

It is not feasible to expect that every pupil or parent/carer will be wholly satisfied with team selection, but the school's decision will be made with the best intentions and with the aim of representing Fairview Primary School with distinction. It should be made clear that

this will not always mean winning. Fair play and sportsmanship are key attributes which will always form the bedrock of representation in our school sports teams.