



Oakmeadow CE Primary School

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2nd November 2022

Dear Homes

School Sport at Oakmeadow: how we select children to represent their school

Since the pandemic has thankfully passed and the covid-enforced safe practice procedures have relatively subsided, the last academic year was the first time that sporting competitions were able to return to normal. We had an incredibly busy year trying to enter as many as possible, and we are particularly proud to say that we have over 130 children represent the school from Y4-Y6 in various disciplines and competitions, including over 60 children represent the school in football fixtures throughout the year. This was in addition to offering inclusive competitions at KS1. Pleasingly, the opportunities are continuing to be offered this year, and we shall endeavour to replicate this in 2022-23 and extend it even further.

How are children chosen for competitions throughout the year?

Since 2018, we have tracked participation in school and the opportunities we offer to our children. This also includes those who attend after school clubs so we are aware of the range of interests that our children possess. We offer opportunities according to this, as well as through dialogue with class teachers about the benefits that taking part would offer for individuals, both physically and socially.

More can be read on this though our vision for PE and School Sport on our website:

http://www.oakmeadowprimary.co.uk/website/pe_school_sport/420444

We try to enter as many different competitions as possible throughout the year in a wider range of disciplines as possible. We just have to be conscious of the demands this places on staffing levels and availability at school. Developing a sporting team at school with Miss Morris and Mr Tudor is certainly making this easier to do.

How are football teams chosen? The notion of squad versus team

We enter as many football competitions as we can throughout the year, for both genders. The amount of fixtures that come up depend on our progress through the competitions.

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We also arrange friendly fixtures with other local schools to increase the amount of opportunities we can offer to all of our children who want to represent the school in football. We try to strike a fine-and-fair balance between promoting inclusion as well as being competitive in games.

Due to this, we have adopted a football squad approach rather than having identified teams. If a child wants to play for the school in football, we will endeavour to give them this opportunity across the year.

However, this is more weighted to Y6 children as they are in the last year of being able to play for the school, and any children moving through from lower years will be given the same preference when they reach Y6. There are also more U11 competitions than others locally. Ultimately, this squad approach might mean that a child plays for the school in one fixture, and then does not in the next, whereas some may play two consecutive fixtures. This is not a random process; it has been carefully thought about based on the competition, the strength of opponent, and most importantly, the positive outcomes that can be offered to these children by taking part. This is a message that we shall also share with our children so they understand this selection process. We understand that they will be disappointed sometimes, but we believe this is the fairest way we can meet our desire to have as many children benefitting from the positive outcomes that taking part in sport and competition can deliver.

Inter-school sport: competition within school

Years 4-6 are offered the chance to take part in our house competitions throughout the year in a range of sports, from Tag Rugby to football, netball, hockey and rounders. We would encourage them to take part as fully as possible, as this is a great way to experience competitive sport in our safe and recognisable school environment. Miss Morris and Mr Tudor are taking more of a hands on role to promote this this year, and we shall be beginning with house football in Autumn 2. More information will come out to those children who want to take part.

For those children below Y4, we appreciate they may be frustrated in wanting to take part in more competition. However, we ask them to be patient, as these opportunities will still be available to them as they move through school.

Our commitment to School Sport

As a school, we remain fully committed to using School Sport as a vehicle to achieve positive outcomes for our children, both in school and beyond. We continue to be a keen advocate and passionate supporter of the *Schoolgames* movement, and were once again awarded the gold mark in 2021-22 for our commitment to achieving the vision and values as set out in their ethos and charter.

<https://www.yourschoolgames.com/how-it-works/>

Should you have any questions regarding any of this, please email admin@oak.mmat.co.uk marked FAO Mr. Ostermeyer, and he will get back to you about this during school hours.

Kind Regards

The Oakmeadow Team

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