



Selecting Children Policy

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1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- provide clear guidelines on our approach to selecting children for teams, choirs, performances and competitions
- establish a consistent and coherent approach to selecting children
- clearly set out to parents how children are selected.

2. Philosophy

Selection for teams and performances happens regularly at Newnham.

We aim for every child to participate and represent their school in sport, music and drama, but there are situations where teachers will have to select children above others, whether it be for musical solos, sports teams or main parts in school plays.

No teacher finds this easy and we recognise that children are often disappointed. As children mature, it is an important part of their development to be able to learn to accept selection by recognising that it is usually done on merit. See Point 3 below for further details.

Selection at Newnham Junior School is an essential part of school life and this sits hand-in-hand with the following school aims to:

- create a happy, safe and caring environment where creative and enthusiastic teaching imparts a life-long love of learning
- help develop children to have a positive mind-set and to meet challenges with enthusiasm and resilience
- encourage all pupils, irrespective of their social or economic background, to have high expectations of themselves and empower them to aim for the highest achievement.

3. Selection Criteria

When selecting children, teachers will use the following criteria.

1. The effort the child puts into what they are being selected for.*
2. The behaviour of the child in the club/lesson/trial/audition where the selection is taking place.**
3. The ability of the child for what they are being selected for.*
4. The choice of the teacher/coach, bearing in mind their knowledge of the child

* We recognise that many children will have put a lot of effort into improving their ability out of school. We also recognise that the level/quality of coaching or tuition a child has received out of school may greatly improve the child's ability.

**Children should not be penalised from selection on behaviour grounds unless the poor behaviour happens within the club or particular lessons where selection occurs. However, the school's behaviour policy does note that any serious misbehaviour outside of the club can result in a sanction of missing matches or events.

4. Informing children and parents

Depending on the maturity of the child, teachers should aim to inform children about their selection before their parents. Ideally children should be informed individually and tactfully about their selection. The likely exception to this is when children are given parts for year group performances as this would be too time consuming.

It is the school's expectation that children will inform their parents when they have been selected. For events that require travel out of the school premises, or out of school hours, parents will be required to give permission for attendance.

5. Preparing children for selection

To help prepare children for the selection process, it is very important that parents/carers talk to their children about the possibility that they will not be selected before they decide to join a club, go to a trial or attend an audition. It is recommended that these points are discussed.

- Selection is based on the selection criteria and no other reasons.
- Other children who have been selected may have had extra tuition/coaching outside of school and ultimately this will improve their ability in what they were selected for.
- If a child has not been selected, then they may need to work harder to achieve their goal for future selection.
- That working hard takes resilience and should be done over a prolonged period.

6. Inclusion

The principles of this selection policy apply to all pupils, including those with special educational needs or disabilities.

We recognise that children with physical disabilities may find it more challenging to be selected for sports teams. If the child's health and safety is accounted for, then the school will try to ensure that all children who regularly attend clubs will be given the opportunity to represent the school.

7. Links with other policies

- Positive behaviour
- PE

8. List of clubs, events and competitions when selection is required

8.1. Selection from weekly clubs (Attendance to the club must over 80%)

Choir – Y 3 – 6 (External and internal events and a competition for the Y5/6 choir)

All children represent the school in a minimum of 1 event. Selection will take place for solos.

Young Voices Y6 (1 event)

All children represent the school

Drama Y3 – 6

All children represent the school

Netball - Y6 (Matches against other schools and tournaments)

All children represent the school in a minimum of 1 match and 1 tournament.*

Some children will be selected for extra training on a Friday after school. These children will represent the school more regularly.

Football – Girls Y4 – 6 (Matches against other schools and tournaments)

All Y6 children will represent the school in a minimum of 1 match.* A minimum of 9 children will be selected to represent the school in a tournament.

If there are not enough Y6 girls, then Y4 and Y5 girls who play for a football club out of school will be invited to join the club. Through this we hope to encourage more girls into sport by presenting positive role models.

Football – Boys - Y6 (Matches against other schools and tournaments)

A minimum of 16 children.

If possible, the children not selected from the trials will, however, be able to represent the school in a tournament.

Swimming Y5 - 6 (Tournament only)

A minimum of 12 girls and 12 boys.

Cross Country Y5 – 6 (Tournament only)

A maximum of 12 boys and 12 girls.

Cricket Y6 (Tournament only)

A minimum of 8 boys and 8 girls.

8.2. Selection from trials/auditions

Year group performances Y3 – 6 (Performance to parents)

All children will perform on stage.** Most children will be given a speaking part. Fewer children will be given larger speaking parts.

Some children may be selected for larger speaking parts for different performances, spanning over different year groups. The school records who have had major parts in performances and we aim to select different children each year for these. However, sometimes this may not be possible.

The Newnham Band Y5 – 6 (1 event)

All children who attend lessons in instruments are selected for this if they are able to perform in front of children.

Head Boy/Girl Y5 (1 event)

Children are selected from their presentation and from their contribution to school life. The final selection is decided by a pupil vote.

House Captains Y6 (1 event)

Children are selected from their presentation. The final selection is decided by a pupil vote.

8.3. Selection from lessons

Academic events/competitions

Number of children varies. If a child represents the school in one event/competition they can still be selected for another.

Sports Hall Athletics Y5 – 6 (Tournament only)

A minimum of 9 girls and 9 boys. When possible, selection takes place in the summer for a weekly club run during the following Autumn Term. Further selection may take place from this club.

Quad Kids Athletics Y5 – 6 (Tournament only)

5 girls and 5 boys will be selected from the Sports Hall Athletics club.

District Athletics Y5 – 6 (Tournament only)

A minimum of 20 boys and 20 girls. Selection takes place in the Spring for a weekly club run during the Summer. Further selection may take place from this club.

Hockey Y4 – 6 (Tournament only)

A minimum of 3 boys and 3 girls. Children who play hockey out of school will be selected to ensure that their representation in less popular sports is acknowledged

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and rewarded. Children who have not represented the school regularly in football and netball will have priority selection.***

Basketball Y5 - 6 (Tournament only)

A minimum of 3 girls and 3 boys. Children who play basketball out of school will be selected to ensure that representation in less popular sports is rewarded. Children who have not represented the school regularly in football and netball will have priority selection.***

Rounders Y6 (Tournament only)

A minimum 5 girls and 5 boys. Children who have not represented the school for cricket will have priority selection.

Tag Rugby Y5 – 6 (Tournament only)

A minimum of 4 girls and 4 boys. Children who play rugby out of school will be selected to ensure that representation in less popular sports is acknowledged and rewarded. Children who have not represented the school regularly in football and netball will have priority selection.***

*The health and safety of the child and of other children must be taken into account when selecting for sports teams.

**Children will be encouraged to be on stage, but no child will be forced to perform.

***If a child plays rugby, hockey or basketball for a club outside of school, then they may represent the school in their sport even if they are in the school football, netball or cricket teams. This is to ensure that these children are not penalised for playing a less popular sport.

Conclusion

As a school we pride ourselves on the opportunities given to the children to perform and represent their school. We recognise that there are times when children may be upset when they are not selected, but we hope that, even in disappointment, the children learn the importance of resilience and determination to improve and progress.

Newnham Junior School

Date October 2023

Name of the Chair of Governors. Tanya Heuhns

Signature of the Chair of Governors _____

Date	Updated	Comments
October 2020	New Policy	Approved by Curriculum Committee & FGB
13th October 2021	No changes.	Reviewed at committee & ratified at FGB 13/10/21
12th October 2022	Approved	Changes due to a change in selection of pupil voice
October 2023	Approved	No changes