



# Selection of PE Teams at Abbey Gates Primary School

At Abbey Gates Primary School, we recognise the powerful role that physical education and sport play in supporting the development of the whole child. Through PE and school sport, children build resilience, develop cooperation and courtesy, experience healthy competition, and enhance their mental and physical wellbeing. Our approach is inclusive, fair, and focused on providing every child with meaningful opportunities to participate, develop, and enjoy sport.

## Competitive and Inclusive Opportunities

To meet the needs of all pupils and promote a balanced sporting culture, we offer two distinct but equally valued strands of PE and school sport:

- Inclusive Activities and Events

These are open to all children and focus on participation, enjoyment, and skill development. They include in-school festivals, friendly matches, and multi-skills events. Selection for these is usually based on interest, effort in PE lessons, and rotation, so that many children can represent the school.

- Competitive Teams and Events

These are aimed at providing more advanced opportunities for pupils to apply their skills in inter-school competitions and leagues. Selection for competitive teams is based on skill level, effort, attitude, teamwork, and commitment to training or practices. These experiences help students develop a healthy understanding of competition and build the confidence to perform under pressure.

By offering both inclusive and competitive tranches, we aim to ensure that all children are engaged, challenged, and supported in ways that suit their stage of development and interests.

## Our Aims in PE Team Selection

- To provide fair and broad access to sporting opportunities for all pupils
- To encourage lifelong participation in physical activity by building physical literacy, confidence, and a sense of belonging
- To promote key values through sport:

*Resilience* – learning to persevere and cope with both success and disappointment

*Cooperation* – working positively with others towards shared goals

*Courtesy* – showing respect to teammates, opponents, and officials

*Healthy Competition* – striving for personal and team bests in a respectful, sportsmanlike manner



## How Selection Works

### *1. Inclusive Activities*

Participation is typically open to all or managed on a rotational basis.

Teachers consider interest, effort in PE lessons, and the need to give a wide range of pupils the chance to represent the school.

### *2. Competitive Events*

Selection is based on a combination of:

- Skill development and understanding of the sport
- Attitude, cooperation, and willingness to work with a team
- Commitment to practices or preparation sessions
- Reliability and behaviour in school

All decisions are made by PE staff and teachers, using professional judgment to ensure a positive team experience and fair competition.

## Health, Wellbeing, and Growth Through Sport

Participation in school sport supports both mental and physical health. Through active engagement in PE, children:

- Build confidence and self-esteem
- Learn to regulate emotions such as excitement, nerves, or frustration
- Enjoy the physical benefits of movement, strength, and stamina
- Experience the satisfaction of working towards goals and contributing to something bigger than themselves

## Working in Partnership with Parents

We value the support of parents in promoting a healthy approach to sport. We encourage families to:

- Celebrate children's effort, growth, and teamwork—not just outcomes
- Support children to manage disappointment constructively
- Reinforce that every role, level, and opportunity is valuable
- Recognise that team selection is the responsibility of the teaching staff, and that decisions are made with fairness, care, and the best interests of the children in mind

At Abbey Gates Primary School, we aim to create a PE and sport experience where every child feels included, supported, and inspired to achieve their personal best—both on and off the field.