

School Sports Policy

Introduction:

Sports has a major role to play in school and society. Our Lady of Mercy encourages all students to engage in a sporting activity as part of their overall development in particular their physical, social and emotional development. It is hoped that all students will grow and develop into mature responsible adults to reflect the (overall) philosophy of our school, as stated in our mission statement.

Aim of the Policy:

- To create opportunities for all students to participate in and enjoy a wide variety of sports (competitive and non-competitive).
- To ensure the safety of all sporting participants in school and when playing sport away from school.

The underlying principles (of the policy) provide for:

Inclusiveness: The exposure of students to a wide variety of sports (competitive & non-competitive) to meet the needs and interests of all students. All students encouraged to participate in some sport.

School retention: Through being involved in a sporting activity students will develop a more positive attitude to school and enjoy being in school.

Improved achievement: Through sporting events students will develop “a healthy body” which will in turn develop “a healthy mind”. This will be reflected in greater academic success for these students.

Enjoyment: Everyone involved in any sporting event will enjoy the experience. A harmonious interaction will develop between teachers, coaches and students, between fellow students and between opposition teams.

Personal Growth: Participants in sport will learn new skills and their self-confidence will improve.

Sportsmanship: Participants in sport will develop a “team spirit” attitude which will benefit them in other areas of their life. A balanced attitude towards competition will be learnt where winning and losing will be handled in a spirit of true sportsmanship.

Lifelong Learning: Being involved in sport at a young age will benefit students in adult life by continuing to participate in sports as player, coach or spectator.

Wellbeing: Participating in sport will improve the overall wellbeing of the students.

General Guidelines for extra-curricular activities:

- Consent forms to be signed by Parents/Guardians of team players (to take part in a sporting activity/to leave the school premises).
- Out of school form to be completed by teacher/coach and displayed in the staffroom. These students to be marked present on school roll by symbol (S).
- Adequate supervision will be in place when a team leaves the school.
- Representatives from the Sports Council and the parent body will accompany teams.
- For away games, all players must use transport organised by the school.
- All sporting accidents/incidents must be reported to the Principal and recorded in Accident Report book.
- All discipline problems on the sports field (or among supporters) will be dealt with by the teachers/coaches. Serious incidents must be reported to the school Principal.
- The school code of discipline applies to all students at all times.
- Child protection guidelines will be adhered to at all times.
- Staff safety must be considered at all times.

Code of behaviour for players and spectators:

- Players play by the rules.
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree with an official's decision, have your captain, coach or manager discuss the matter with the official during a break or after the competition.
- Work for yourself and for your team. You will both benefit.
- Be a good sport applauding all good plays made by a team member or by a member of the opposition.
- Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
- Co-operate with your coach, team mates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- Respect the rights, dignity, and worth of all participants regardless of their ability, cultural background or religion.
- Wear the correct attire.
- Chewing gum is prohibited when participating in any physical activity.
- It is forbidden to wear any jewellery when participating in any physical activity.
- Smoking is not allowed.
- Players are required to behave in a responsible manner at all times, on the way to and from the game (by bus or on foot) on the playing field and in the changing rooms.

Students must remember that they are representing Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School at all times