

SPORTS POLICY

1. **GENERAL** The School will provide as wide a range of sports as is reasonably possible for the minimum number of pupils possible in each sport.
2. **OPPORTUNITY** The School will provide a high level of opportunity for as many pupils as possible to participate in competitive sports, team sports and individual recreational activities.
3. **PURPOSE** The purpose of sport is both to provide healthy activities for the benefit of body, mind and soul and to provide opportunities for social intercourse, the exercise of leadership skills, the acquisition of team skills and patterns of living which will endure for a life time.
4. **SCOPE** The School will seek to have the widest possible links throughout the Province, Ireland, the United Kingdom and further afield in sporting pursuits. There is a particular emphasis on links with schools which come from a different political and religious tradition and with schools in Chile, Australia, New Zealand, Zimbabwe and South Africa. To this end the school will do all in its power to assist financially and physically the undertaking of tours throughout the United Kingdom and further afield, on a regular basis.
5. **CURRICULUM** PE is compulsory for all pupils throughout the School except on the production of medical exemption certificates.
6. **EXTRA CURRICULAR SPORT** is compulsory in Years 8 - 12 except on the grounds identified in Paragraph 5 (above). In Years 13 and 14 extra-curricular sport is encouraged strongly.
7. **ETHOS**
 - (i) **Money:** The school believes that the highest ideals of sport are achieved through the amateur pursuit of sport and games but that where there are strong links with the professional game the dangers inherent in that approach will be made apparent to the pupils.
 - (ii) **Drugs and Alcohol:** The school embraces an anti-drugs policy in all areas of life: this is particularly important in the sporting arena. Consequently there will be strong educational guidance given as to the dangers and demerits of the use of drugs in sport. The approach to alcohol, given its greater presence in society, will be at least as emphatic and will be positively forbidden in connection with any sporting activities, tours, sportsmanship etc.
 - (iii) **Appearance and Image:** The school sees its inter-schools sporting involvement as an opportunity to represent the traditions and ethos of The Royal School which have been built up over centuries. To this end the teams will be taught to take a pride in their appearance on and off the sports field, to show generosity in defeat and graciousness in victory.
 - (iv) **Role:** It will discourage the cult of the personality and the 'Prima Donna', and foster the strongest possible element of the individual being subordinate to the whole team, yet playing a vital part of that team.
 - (v) **Philosophy:** It will be a strong pillar of the school's philosophy that whilst all pupils will strive to reach their maximum potential in sport, one individual will be valued as highly as the next regardless of his or her ability.

(vi) **Participation:** Participation, therefore, is everything and success, both personal and team, is important but secondary.

(vii) **Respect:** Respect for one's opponent and acceptance of the Referee's/Umpire's word as final are considered to be paramount as is respect for the rules and laws of the games themselves.

8. **STAFF DEVELOPMENT** All members of Staff who participate in coaching teams will be given every opportunity to improve and practice their coaching skills by participating in courses deemed to be relevant and useful, provided by the governing bodies of major games. Where possible they will be assisted to pursue their own sport if at a high level of performance.

9. **GROUNDS** The School plans to provide equal facilities for boys and girls of a high quality, adequate to the needs of the teams it turns out on a regular basis, well maintained attractively presented so that a sense of pride is achieved in the whole impact of RSD sport upon those who come to take part in sport in the school grounds.

In Years 8 - 10 pupils normally have 4 periods of PE and Games; in Year 11 and 12 they have 2 to 4 periods depending on subject choices and in Sixth Form they have 2 periods of Games.

A wide range of sports is available to pupils and the School has a long and proud tradition of sporting prowess particularly in Rugby, Hockey, Cricket, Athletics and Shooting. A wide variety of other team and individual sports is available including basketball, tennis, badminton, weights, cross-country, swimming, volleyball, netball, indoor soccer and table tennis.

Set in grounds comprising nearly 50 acres of beautiful playing fields, woods and buildings the sporting facilities are excellent. They include 4 rugby pitches, 1 all-weather hockey pitch and 1 Astro turf pitch, 200m athletic track and 1 jumping pit, 4 tennis courts, 3 outdoor cricket nets, a cricket square and a handball alley. Cross country running facilities exist within the school campus and it is also suitable for orienteering. Indoor facilities include a Sports Hall (with 3 badminton courts and a training area), a fully equipped fitness suite which includes cardio-vascular machines and resistance stations, a gymnasium (fully equipped with wall-bars and beams), an indoor cricket net and a shooting range. The School also has the use of another cricket square and the Council-owned Leisure Centre and Swimming Pool, which are a within five minute walk of the School.