

COMPETITIVE SPORT AND TEAM SELECTION

At St Stephen's, we are able to enter all appropriate Borough competitions as well as having a busy schedule of friendlies and other sporting events. We have had another phenomenal year of sport, and are very proud to have had so many children participating in such a huge variety of sports events. It was particularly great to be able to welcome parents back for the two Sports Days in July, to have had such high numbers of children representing the school in competitions and friendlies and to have had so many successful teams winning Borough Competitions, thereby qualifying for the London Youth Games and West London Games finals throughout the course of the 2021/22 academic year. We have started the 2022/23 academic year in a similar fashion. Please click here to see the full list of sporting highlights for 2022 ([Physical Education - St Stephens \(ststephensce.lbhf.sch.uk\)](http://ststephensce.lbhf.sch.uk)).

Below is an explanation of the different events we enter and how children are selected for the various types of teams.

H&F Borough Competitions:

There are a number of annual events organised by the Borough, some of which are standalone, and others which follow on to the London Youth Games finals or West London finals (where the winners of the Borough events go on to represent Hammersmith & Fulham in the finals). Most of these events are for Years 5&6, although there are a few for Years 3&4. These competitions usually state the criteria for team selection, i.e. whether we should select highest ability children, or whether the competition is more suited to B or C Teams, or children who don't normally or regularly participate in competitions. We always follow such criteria. Where the event is a "Higher" event (which usually means the winner goes on to represent the Borough), we will always request (and are often successful in being allowed) to bring a B team in addition to an A team. We ensure that as many different children throughout their time in Years 5&6 get to be in the B teams for the sports they enjoy but where they are not necessarily at the A team level.

Where possible, we trial the children for Borough competitions. This is done either directly through their PE lessons (where they have already covered the relevant unit in PE) or through scheduled trials dates. When there are scheduled trials, we usually inform the children rather than emailing parents, in which case the children are responsible for ensuring they turn up on the right date at the right time in their PE kit.

Unless otherwise specified by the criteria of a competition, we take competitive teams to most Borough events, as the Borough is looking for teams to represent them at the next level. There are often some children who are so outstanding in their sporting ability that they make the A team across a number of sports. Our approach to Borough competitions is to stick to the criteria, and therefore such children may repeatedly be selected for the Higher Level competitions. However, with the number of competitions we enter and the number of B team opportunities throughout the course of the year, they will all have the chance to compete in Borough competitions.

Facts and Figures:

| Year | Year Group | % of children who competed in at least one Borough Competition |
|----------------------|------------|--|
| Sept 2021- July 2022 | 6 | 100 % |
| | 5 | 65% |
| | 4 | 65% |
| Sept 2022-Dec 2023 | 6 | 80% |
| | 5 | 58% |
| | 4 | 33% |

Friendlies:

We organise many friendlies, including matches with local schools and independent schools, as well as doing our best to ensure we are invited to local tournaments organised by independent schools so that we can give more children the opportunity to compete and to represent St Stephen's. These tournaments and matches are fantastic as they enable us to take the children to the level of competition that is right for each of them individually. For example, some tournaments have separate competitions for A teams, B teams and C teams. Sometimes for matches we are asked by our hosts to bring particular levels of ability. Over the course of an academic year, we ensure that all children from Years 5&6 represent the school in a friendly. We are aiming to achieve this from Year 4 upwards, and are actively seeking opportunities for more friendlies for Years 2&3.

| Year | Year Group | % of children who competed in at least one friendly |
|--------------------|------------|---|
| 2021-2022 | 6 | 100 % |
| | 5 | 65% |
| | 4 | 65% |
| Sept 2022-Jan 2023 | 6 | 100% |
| | 5 | 100% |
| | 4 | 100% |
| | 3 | 33% |

Whole Year Intra-competitions or events:

Each year we also organise a number of internal competitions off-site, including football tournaments and cross country runs, to ensure again that all children are introduced to the competition experience. So far this year we have organised football tournaments for Years 1 and 2, and a cross country competition for the whole of Key Stage 2.

We continue to look for exciting ways through which we can enrich the sporting activities for the children of our school, so if you think that you might be able to help, whether by coming to visit to talk about your participation in sport or organising a training session for some children, we would love to hear from you.