

The Weald Federation

Of Five Ashes, Frant, Mark Cross and Mayfield Church of England Primary Schools



With God's love we grow and learn together

With God's love we grow and learn together to inspire every child and adult to flourish within our community. Through our Christian ethos, excellent teaching and shared learning, we aim to encourage everyone to discover who they are in relation to God, the world and others. This is in order to prepare for, and positively contribute to, our ever changing and diverse world.

Sports Selection Guidance

Led by:	EHT- Joanna Challis
Date implemented:	September 2025
Date for next review:	September 2026
Approved by:	EHT
ESCC policy / school	School

Our vision

ALL pupils leaving our school will have a foundation for lifelong health and wellbeing, they will show compassion, take risks and develop the ability, confidence and desire to be physically active.

Aims

The aims of this guidance is to:

1. Raise the profile of PE and sport across the school
2. Increase participation in competitive sport
3. Raise the school's achievement in inter-school competitions

The role of the school

We are dedicated to nurturing children's enjoyment and enthusiasm for sport, part of which involves developing and valuing a competitive and winning ethos. We aim to:

- provide a range of competitive opportunities
- strike the right balance between competitive selective events and competitive non-selective (inclusive) events
- encourage all children to participate in competitive sport as often as possible
- prepare children for events well through PE lesson and clubs
- ensure that no child feels left out or put off sport
- provide clear communication about PE and sport competitions
- celebrate success and take pride in those children who compete

Clubs

Taking part in a club is a wonderful opportunity for children to develop their knowledge and skills, as well as their confidence, self-esteem and teamwork. Participating in a club also provides an opportunity for children to learn the value of commitment, even when they are finding things hard. To help with this, we expect the following:

- Children attend all sessions, each term. Exceptions are illness during the school day, absence from school or a medical/dental appointment. It is not acceptable for children to decide one week that they do not feel like attending.
- An email sent, by parents, to the club leader if a child will be absent due to a medical/dental appointment – the school will know when a child is absent because of illness or if they are withdrawing their child from the club.

Selective and non-selective competitive events

We offer all children the chance to participate in competitive sport; in PE lessons, in house competitions and in inter-school competitions. Some of these competitive events are selective whilst some are non-selective. Where events are selective, the criteria may vary from fixture to fixture and is hugely dependent on the level of competition, as well as the number of children that we are allowed to take to events. Many of the competitions that we enter are of a high standard, with opposition being extremely competent in terms of skill level, knowledge of rules, tactical knowledge, strength and speed.

Knowledge about pupils' performance against these criteria will be based on PE lessons, clubs as well as behaviour and conduct at all times across all areas of school life: it is important for the children to understand that it is a privilege to represent the school.

All competitive intra-school house events are non-selective and enable all pupils to participate. Each academic year we will publish a list of competitive events that the school will enter. Each event is shown as either selective or non-selective.

The following selection criteria apply:

Criteria for ALL events (selective and non-selective)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slip returned by the date shown (if held at an external venue) • Attitude, effort and behaviour in PE lessons and practices • Attitude, effort and behaviour in and out of the classroom generally • Enthusiasm to learn and improve • How the player presents themselves: dress, manners, helpfulness, sportsmanship. • Ability to work as part of a team • Understanding of the importance of safety <p>In line with our inclusive and therapeutic approach to behaviour, at times children who do not meet all of these expectations may be selected. This ensures that all children are given the opportunity to succeed and use sport as a tool for positive personal development.</p>
In addition to the criteria for ALL, above, the following criteria are applied:	
Selective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of skill demonstrated • Level of fitness • Understanding of games, tactics and rules • Emotional maturity to cope with the pressure • Commitment to training and learning
In addition to the criteria for ALL, above, the following criteria are applied:	
Non-selective	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Priority to those who have not participated in an event before 2. If oversubscribed, names will be drawn out of a hat for any remaining children

The role of parents and carers (see Appendix A for protocols at sporting events)

We are grateful for the high levels of support which parents and carers give to PE and Sport in school. They have a considerable influence on the children's enjoyment and success in sport. We would like to thank parents and carers in advance for supporting us as follows:

- If your child is regularly chosen for a team, please help them to understand it is a privilege to represent the school and they should be proud of themselves.
- If your child is not chosen, encourage them to keep coming to practices, keep improving and enjoy what they do within the club; it is important to develop teamwork skills and it is also an excellent way of keeping fit and healthy.

Children's behaviour before events

To ensure fairness and safety for all pupils, we kindly ask for your support in reinforcing the following expectations:

- Positive behaviour matters: consistently disruptive behaviour, in and around school and the classroom, may result in missed opportunities to represent the school in sports, trips, or special events.
- Safety is a priority: Following instructions—especially during physical activities—is essential to keep everyone safe. If a child struggles with this, they may need to sit out until it's safe for them to participate.
- Respecting others' experiences: Disruptive behaviour can affect the enjoyment and learning of other pupils. Staff may prioritise those who help create a positive environment.
- Team spirit counts: Group and team-based activities rely on mutual respect and engagement. Repeated incidents of refusal or disrespect may lead to temporary removal from these activities.
- Responsibility and respect: Opportunities to represent the school are often given to pupils who demonstrate responsibility and good behaviour consistently. Participation is often a reward for positive behaviour; pupils who do not meet expectations may lose this privilege.

We believe in working together to help every child succeed and grow.

Protocols at Sporting events

We are fortunate to be able to take our pupils to sporting events offsite, at other schools in our federation, cluster schools and venues linked to a particular sport. We also hold sporting fixtures at our own school, for federation schools and schools in the local area.

In order to keep our children safe at such events we have a number of protocols in place.

- Safeguarding: All schools, clubs and organisations have a duty of care to children and young people, and will have effective safeguarding policies and procedures in place. If taking photos please do not share on social media without permission.
- Staffing: At any sporting event, a staff member will accompany the team. This may be a teacher, a TA or the PE teacher. They are overall responsible for the safety and behaviour of the pupils at such an event. They choose the teams, the roles and how often a child plays in a particular game.
- Spectators: The organiser at each event will determine who can stay and spectate. They will expect spectators to be respectful towards staff and other schools. The school will inform parents/carers of arrangements.
- Consent: Written consent from parents or carers will be obtained for children to participate in activities.
- Transport: The children will be taken/brought back from events either by parents/carers in cars or in a minibus/coach. A staff member will accompany the children when travelling by minibus or coach. Support from parents/carers is much appreciated as without it we may not be able to attend an event.
- School kit: for most events, school will provide the kit for each child. All kit needs to be returned to the school in good condition. Each school will inform you washing arrangements. Any shinpads, boots, gum shields need to be provided by parents/carers. School can support with any equipment, so please do ask.

- Emergency information: A list of emergency contact numbers for each child will be kept safely by the school staff member responsible for the event and will be easily accessible in an emergency.
- Health and safety: Schools, clubs and organisations will ensure that they have clear health and safety procedures in place; this includes risk assessments with relevant information relating to specific children.
- Code of conduct: Children are taught and reminded to respect their opponents and officials, learn the rules, and accept decisions. Spectators are also encouraged to respect players, coaches, and officials, and to celebrate good play.
- Unacceptable conduct: If a child does not follow expectations at events onsite or offsite, this will be recorded in school and brought to the attention of the Head of School or Executive Headteacher who will determine what steps will be taken. This may include, and not limited to; exclusion from future events both in school and offsite. Parents will be notified of any actions to be taken.

Uplands Festivals

Sport	Event	Cluster Date	Inclusion Category	Eligibility	Time	Venue
Cross Country	Yr3-6 Girls and Boys	21st of October 25	ASPIRE	SCHOOL GAMES	12.30 - 2.30pm	Beacon Acadmey
Football	Yr 5/6 Boys/Mixed	16th October 25	HIGHER	Uplands Cluster Buy-in	1.00 - 3.30pm	Uplands
Football	Yr5/6 Girls	6th November 25	HIGHER	Uplands Cluster Buy-in	1.00 - 3.30pm	Uplands
Sportshall Athletics	Yr 5/6 Mixed Teams	8th January 26	HIGHER	SCHOOL GAMES	1-3pm	Uplands
Stingers Netball	Yr5/6 Mixed Teams	26th February 26	HIGHER	SCHOOL GAMES	2-4.30pm	Uplands
Quickstix Hockey	Yr 5/6 Mixed Teams	WEDS 25th March 26	HIGHER	SCHOOL GAMES	2-4pm	Heathfield
Quad Kids- Partnership	Yr 5/6 Mixed Teams	23rd April 26	HIGHER	SCHOOL GAMES	1-3pm	Goldmiths- Athletics Track
Tag Rugby Festival	Yr5/6 Mixed Team A & B	29th April 26	ALL	Beacon & Uplands Cluster Buy	1-4pm	Crowborough Rugby Club
Tri Golf- Partnership Ent	Yr3/4 Mixed Team	20th May 26	INSPIRE	SCHOOL GAMES	1-3pm	Beacon - Astro

JJ.PE Friday Festivals

Event	Date / Time	Location	Notes
Year 5/6 Boys Football	Friday 24 th of October 1:15pm – 3:00pm	Wadhurst School	7 aside, 10 in a squad
Year 5/6 Girls Football	Friday 14 th of November 1:15pm – 3:00pm	Wadhurst School	7 aside, 10 in a squad
Year 3/4 Boys Football	Friday 21 st of November 1:15pm – 3:00pm	Wadhurst School	7 aside, 10 in a squad
Year 3/4 Girls Football	Friday 5 th of December 1:15pm – 3:00pm	Wadhurst School	7 aside, 10 in a squad
Year 5/6 Mixed Hockey	Friday 12 th of January 1:15pm – 3:00pm	Frant School	4 aside, 8 in a squad
Year 5/6 Mixed Netball	Friday 6 th of February 1:15pm – 3:00pm	Wadhurst School	Bee Netball Rules
Year 3/4 Mixed Hockey Skills	Friday 6 th of March 1:15pm – 3:00pm	Frant School	Sports Captains to support
Year 3/4 Mixed Netball Skills	Friday 20 th of March 1:15pm – 3:00pm	Frant School	Sports Captains to Support
Year 5/6 Mixed Tag Rugby	Friday 17 th of April 1:15pm – 3:00pm	Wadhurst School	Tag Rugby rules (Non – competitive)
Year 3/4 Tag Rugby (skill based)	Friday 1 st of May 1:15pm – 3:00pm	Wadhurst School	Sports Captains to support
Year 5/6 Mixed Cricket	Friday 12 th of June 1:15pm – 3:00pm	Wadhurst School	TBC
Year 3/4 Mixed Cricket (skill based)	Friday 26 th of June 1:15pm – 3:00pm	Wadhurst School	TBC
Partnership Sports Day Y 3/4 AM Y 5/6 PM	Friday 10 th of July	Wadhurst Primary School	TBC