

Fixture Attendance Expectations

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Policy Statement

At Ewell Castle School we believe that sport plays an important role in a young person's development. Sport provides experiences outside the classroom, teaching teamwork, resilience, commitment to a cause, leadership and well-being.

As a school we pride ourselves on creating an environment where students want to represent the school and enjoy the benefits of a life-long involvement in sport. For school sport to flourish there must be a commitment to the team from everyone involved (pupils, parents and staff). It is vital that everyone participating understands that the sports programme is only as good as the people within it. Without commitment the programme will not be successful. As pupils and parents, we kindly ask that you respect the values of the school sports programme and buy into the world of sport here at Ewell Castle.

Our expectations are that pupils involved in school sport attend all weekly training sessions and both midweek and weekend fixtures. It must be noted that non-attendance limits the teams progress and the chances of success. We hope that any such incidents are kept to a minimum.

Ewell Castle School Sporting Attendance Requirements

Expected Attendance

- Attendance at both training and fixtures is an expectation for all students selected to be part of school teams at Ewell Castle School.

Notification of Selection

- Students will be notified of their selection by Thursday at 18.00 at the latest each week. Selection for teams will be based on both attitude and performance as well as attendance record at training.
- Selection will be published via the school sports website (Socs Sport) www.ewellcastlesport.co.uk

Please note that we expect both pupils and parents to be aware of selections and to check the teams each week.

Absence Procedure

Whilst we would expect all pupils to participate in matches there may be times when a pupil is unwell during the week or on the morning of the fixture and notice of absence will be required so that staff and pupils are not waiting for a person who will not be attending. In these circumstances the parent of the pupil should email the coach of the team prior to 7.45am on the morning of the match.

Unavailability Procedure

It is vital that regular commitment from pupils occurs to successfully run a sporting programme. We understand that on rare occasions it may not be possible for a pupil to attend a fixture due to personal reasons. We would expect that pupils prioritise school teams over external club sport on most

occasions, except if the external club is providing a higher level of representative sport that cannot be matched by the fixture at school.

On the rare occasion that a pupil is unavailable we would kindly ask that consideration is given to playing half a game or leaving at the end of the game directly or similar reasonable solutions are considered to limit the number of pupils who are not able to play on a given day.

Where such unavailability occurs, we would kindly ask that the coach of the team is emailed, copying in both the Director of Sport and the Head of Girls Games as appropriate, no later than **72 hours** prior to the match taking place. This will allow discussion to occur between both parties and to see if a reasonable solution can be found.

We hope that all pupils who are selected want to participate and that the 'normal' position is that when a pupil is selected to play, they do so.

Non-Attendance without a valid reason / appropriate notification

Should a pupil not inform the correct member of staff in good time this affects a significant number of other people from our school and the opposition. If notice is not given in due time the following sanctions will occur:

First Offence

The pupil will be reminded of the above policy and an explanation of how to address the situation that has occurred will be discussed in person with the pupil.

Second Offence

The student will be given an after-school detention on a Friday (4pm till 5pm) for non-attendance/ lack of appropriate notification given and an email sent home with the above information for reference to parents as to why we believe it is vital to meet the expectations of the School.

Repeated Offences

Continued non-attendance with or without valid reasons will result in further sanctions. A discussion with parents and pupils as to how the situation can be resolved so that the pupil can take part will occur either in person at the School, online or by phone.

Encouragement and Support

The School will provide support and encouragement to all students to foster a positive attitude towards sports participation. The School will provide an extensive fixture list and provide an appropriate level of competition for all pupils. Any pupil who attends training will be able to play in fixtures. This may not be each week based on numbers, but no pupil will miss out on opportunities to play.

The School will provide all information in due time ensuring the accuracy of the information.

Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Director of Sport and the SLT Team. By adhering to this policy Ewell Castle School aims to maintain high standards of commitment, school spirit and

sportsmanship. In doing so we endeavour to ensure that all pupils gain a positive experience from their school sporting opportunities.

Links with other Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- Behaviour for Learning policy
- Pupil handbook