



# The Priory School of Our Lady Of Walsingham



## Missing Games Lessons for External Sporting Commitments Policy

Reviewed by: Executive Committee

On: 1 November 2024

Next review due: September 2025

Signature of Principal:

## Missing Games Lessons for External Sporting Commitments Policy

*Requests for pupils to miss afternoon Games lessons to follow personal sporting interests off site, for example, golf, equestrian sports and/or opportunities for those who aspire to play professional sport as a career.*

We hope to achieve a balance between supporting pupils who perform at a high level in sport whilst also giving Priory teams continuity and the best possible chance of success on the pitch or court. To do this, it is important for the school, parents, clubs and coaches to reach a compromise.

The following guidelines are now in place and are subject to ongoing review.

1. Parents and pupils are made aware of which sports fall into each term.
2. Pupils should expect to represent their school in competition in those sports where they have a particular aptitude.
3. If selected for a school team, then pupils must be available for the match and match relevant training.
4. If not selected, then pupils can pursue their own sport, subject to that being an exceptional opportunity for a talented, focused and organised pupil, for example, competing in a recognised competition or tournament. By way of a contrast, casual swimming, golf and other sports, gym, or indeed revision, are not legitimate alternative activities. The general rule is that pupils take part in the organised and coached games sessions the school provides.
5. If Games and/or matches are cancelled, then pupils can pursue their own sport.
6. All requests are made in writing to the School Office; 'blanket' permission will not be granted.
7. Pupils must not miss academic lessons, and any deterioration in academic outcomes, attitude or conduct is likely to lead to refusal to sanction external activities.

We will try to avoid short notice additions to the fixture list. We will also try to be as accommodating as possible in the winter months when the days are shorter; equally parents must capitalise on the longer summer days and weekends. SEN and similar issues may also be factors in any agreement between school and home.

Whilst we don't want to hold our strongest sportsmen and women back, it is my firmly held opinion that representing one's school is a great honour, and given the small nature of our school, multiple and sustained absence can have a significant detrimental effect on morale and sporting achievements.

We aim to meet the needs of school sport whilst not hindering any pupils chance of taking part in exceptional sporting events and competition.

Authorised by the Principal, Mr David EJJ Lloyd

September 2024