



## **Bancroft's School Sports Charter**

Bancroft's School is extremely grateful to parents for their ongoing and valuable support for our numerous sporting fixtures and events throughout the year. It is worthwhile providing a gentle reminder of our sporting ethos and our joint responsibility to uphold the core principles in terms of our attitude and behaviour before, during and after each sporting event.

Our aim is to provide a sports programme that is based on positive, life changing ideals. We believe in the development of the whole child, the fostering of an 'active life' philosophy and the promotion of a lifetime investment in sport and physical activity. This sporting ethos celebrates enjoyment, equality of access, breadth of participation and excellence both on and away from the sporting arena.

In order for our ethos to be upheld and our sports programme to be truly successful it takes the co-operation of all involved; players, coaches, officials, staff spectators and parents. The school has invested a great deal of time in reinforcing our sporting ethos amongst our pupils and we now believe it is essential that we include parents and friends of Bancroft's School in this process.

The following points clarify what Bancroft's School believes are essential standards associated with its sporting culture. In effect it represents a code of conduct for our community and is intended to include you rather than alienate you.

### **The Role of Parents**

The entire coaching staff is wholly grateful for the support, encouragement and assistance that many parents provide, often driving long distances and rearranging busy schedules to cheer on their children and the team on a regular basis. As part of the school's commitment to both excellence and participation we have an extensive sporting programme that aims to provide as many opportunities as possible for our children to learn the performance virtues of teamwork, problem-solving, leadership and self-discipline and the intellectual virtues of cooperation, communication and reflection. By selecting to come to Bancroft's School you have committed to this ethos and we expect all pupils who are selected for fixtures to fulfil their responsibility to the team and the school. We ask that school sport takes priority over other activities at the weekend. Fixtures and training session times are available both through the school's website and in your child's diary. It is strongly recommended that this is consulted well in advance to avoid potential conflicts. We do realise that in some cases a child will be unable to commit to an activity and under these circumstances we must have as much notice as is possible to enable our coaches to make the necessary adjustments to team selection.

We believe it is vital that children are allowed the opportunity to take part in fixtures during the exam period. Young people who play sport are more self-confident, resilient learners who cope better in times of pressure. The School has adopted a whole-school approach to using sport as a means of supporting and complementing academic study, particularly over the exam period and it is for this

reason we continue to organise fixtures during exam sessions. However, we need parental support in this matter. The Youth Sport Trust has conducted extensive studies into this matter and concludes that sport is a great confidence, esteem and character builder. It also empowers and improves academic achievement. Many of our pupils will go on to face significant challenges in the near future – this might be an Oxbridge or medical interview or later on a job interview and in the work place hosting clients or demonstrating powers of diplomacy and negotiation. Sport assists in building a child's skills toolkit in these areas. We believe that to deny our pupils the opportunity to test these skills and take risks in a safe and controlled environment would be detrimental to their development and we would be failing in our remit as educators to do so. The Chief Executive of Universities in the UK – the body that represents vice-chancellors - has campaigned hard in seeking reform in university admissions. They are keen to see pupils broaden their experiences at school. This group has argued hard that pupils should have a portfolio that registers their achievements in a range of activities, including participation in societies, voluntary work and sporting achievement as well as academic prowess. The sporting programme at Bancroft's has been designed exactly with this in mind and we would appreciate your support in reinforcing the importance of participation to your children.

### **Parent and Coach Alliance**

Match days are inevitably exciting occasions and sometimes can become highly charged affairs. Parents and guardians have responsibility to help the School in ensuring their child gets the most out of his or her playing experience. Parental support should always include positive reinforcement of both your child's performance and their efforts. This is essential in encouraging strong self-esteem and a healthy development. We ask parents to be positive role models and demonstrate sportsmanship themselves; the notion of fair play and to avoid negativity of any kind. It is not acceptable for anyone to ridicule or chastise their child, the team or others for making a mistake or losing a fixture. Parents should encourage children to play according to the rules at all times. It is essential that all parents and guardians agree to support their respective coach's decisions (even in the event that they do not fully agree with them).

Please refrain from:

- Entering the playing arena at any time
- Airing any grievances relating to any aspect of the game regarding the players; the coach or officials whilst in the presence of our pupils and our visitors

The coach's judgement on issues such as selection must be accepted as final. However well you know your son or daughter, you cannot share the same overview of the whole team. The coach is best suited and entirely qualified to take all factors into consideration and make the right decisions for the team as a whole.

Parents and spectators have a responsibility to other parents and spectators. Competition and taunting between parents is never acceptable, and no parent or spectator should ever be made to feel embarrassed or disappointed by the team or child's performance. Good play should always be applauded and disappointments should always be consoled. Remember that children learn best through example and praise should be bestowed on the efforts of both teams.

Parents and spectators have a responsibility to themselves. The joy and pride associated with watching children learn and grow through sport should be experienced to the fullest, it is here that lifelong memories will be generated for both you and your child.

Your children play sport for many reasons. Ultimately we wish them to foster a feeling of self-worth and respect. Please help this endeavor by focusing on your child's efforts and personal achievements rather than purely on whether they win or lose.

Bancroft's School's parents, friends and supporters play an essential role in maximising the success of our sport. I thank you in advance of your support and I look forward to working with during the course of the next year.



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