



Stopsley Community Primary School and Nursery Sports Academy Admissions Policy

Rationale

Stopsley Community Primary School and Nursery aims to provide a fair, transparent, and inclusive admissions system for all pupils wishing to apply for a place in the Stopsley Sports Academy. The Academy is designed to offer a unique opportunity for children to further their sporting education, performance understanding and character development.

Admission Arrangements

The Governing Board has set the maximum admission number at twenty pupils for the Sports Academy. The provision is available to children in Years 4, 5 and 6.

Children admitted into the Sports Academy will participate in the following additional sessions each week:

- 3 x 45-minute sessions (one before school, one during lunchtime and one after school)
- 2 x 30-minute sessions (both sessions during the afternoon timetable)

These sessions aim to enhance pupils' theoretical and practical understanding of sport and performance, including topics such as: nutrition, recovery, sleep, tactics and positional responsibilities.

Application Process

Parents wishing to apply for a Sports Academy place for their child will be invited to complete a Google Form, which will be distributed at the start of the academic year. This form allows parents to do an 'Expression of Interest' for their child. 'Expressions of Interest' will be considered by the Academy Lead and Senior Leadership Team (SLT), with offers made based on the following criteria:

1. Demonstrated enthusiasm for sport and commitment to personal development
2. Positive behaviour record at the school
3. Good attendance at the school
4. Willingness to commit to the full programme of sessions, including fixtures
5. Ability to demonstrate a minimum level of skill and performance which is required to complete the curriculum for the sport being taught

The 'Expression of Interest' form will include a section for pupils to provide reasons for wanting to join the Sports Academy.

Two further factors are considered alongside the form to determine which pupils are offered a place. These are:

1. Teacher Assessment data for current and recent PE lessons at the school
2. Performance and potential seen at a practical trial which is led and observed by the Academy Lead

Review of Places

Sports Academy places are fluid and subject to regular review. This ensures the provision remains purposeful, fair and in line with the school's high expectations. Pupils who are not meeting expectations may be supported to re-engage and in some cases, their place may be offered to another applicant on the waiting list.

Factors that may trigger a review of a pupil's place include:

- A significant drop in their attendance for either their class or the Sports Academy
- Negative behaviour incidents, including suspensions from the school or a significant drop in their attitude to learning during class time or at the Sports Academy
- Poor commitment to the programme

In such cases, the Academy Lead will contact parents to discuss concerns and next steps.

Waiting List

If more than twenty applications are received, pupils will be placed on a waiting list and may be offered a space should one become available during the academic year.

Equality and Inclusion

Stopsley Sports Academy is committed to equality and inclusion. All 'Expressions of Interest' will be treated fairly and without discrimination in line with the school's Equality Policy. The school encourages 'Expressions of Interest' from all children who are the appropriate age and would like to be considered for a place in the Academy. No pupils will be discriminated against, nor favored, for having Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), for being in receipt of a particular funding for the school (eg: Pupil Premium; Asylum Seeker, etc) or due to their race, religion, gender or any other characteristic.

Behaviour and Attendance Expectations

Participation in the Academy is a privilege. Pupils are expected to:

- Attend all Academy sessions promptly and consistently, including fixtures
- Demonstrate respectful and positive behaviour at all times
- Consistently demonstrate the 'Stopsley 6' values which are taught as part of the Academy curriculum
- Set a positive example for peers as role models in the wider school community

Persistent poor behaviour or low attendance may result in a warning, temporary suspension from sessions or removal from the programme.

Expectations of Parents

It is important that parents are fully aware of their role when their child has a place in the Sports Academy. Parents are expected to do all they reasonably can to ensure that their child attends any sports fixtures they have been invited to play in. Most fixtures will take place after school time. Parents are expected to help with transporting their child and if this is not possible, it is the parent's responsibility to arrange transport for their child via another adult. Parents are expected to pick their child up on time (or to arrange for another trusted adult to pick their child up on time) from any events / fixtures, including those that take place during after school time. If this support is not forthcoming by parents, the Academy Lead may arrange a conversation with the parents to implement a plan that will improve the level of support. If the parent's support is still not forthcoming, the child may have their place in the Sports Academy removed.

It is expected that parents support the school's policy on their child wearing Sports Academy kit for all sessions. The kit is to be well looked after and if any part of the kit is lost, damaged or not kept in a good condition, parents will be asked to replace this part of the kit at a cost to themselves.

When attending any Sports Academy events / fixtures, parents are to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner and are to display positive encouragement only for their child and for any other children participating.

If parents have any issues with any aspect of the Sports Academy provision, organisation or outcomes, they are to speak with the Academy Lead in the first instance. If this does not resolve the issue/s, parents may request an appointment with a member of the school's SLT to discuss their concern further. Any complaints to be made are done so using the school's Complaints Policy.

Session Changes and Termination

As places are fluid, changes in Academy membership may occur throughout the year, led by ongoing monitoring and reviews. The school reserves the right to remove or replace participants in line with the criteria throughout this policy.

Admission to the Following Year

Sports Academy places are offered on a year-by-year basis. Pupils must re-submit an 'Expression of Interest' each academic year. Participation in one year does not guarantee admission in the following year.

Appeals

Currently, there is no Appeals option for any aspect of the Sports Academy. This includes for any admissions to the Academy, for the curriculum and assessment which is delivered or for any aspect of the Academy's organisation, management or decision making. However, the school welcomes and values pupil and parental feedback, which can be made in the usual way by arranging an appointment with the Academy Lead or member of SLT, or by completing the 'feedback page' on the school website.

Contact Information

For any queries regarding the Sports Academy or admissions process, please contact the Academy Lead, which can be done via the school office or email: schooloffice@stopsleyprimary.co.uk

Date: June 2025

Review date: June 2026