

Games Policy

Coláiste Cholmcille



2023

Introduction

Coláiste Cholmcille has enjoyed much success on the sporting fields; success that is rooted in the passion and commitment of our teachers. Student participation in sport and games builds personal capacity, enhances school life, improves attendance and for some it incentivises them to engage more fully with school life. Furthermore, there are obvious physical health benefits such as keeping in shape, healthier hearts and bodies, and moreover, there are also mental health gains. There is, too, the social benefit of meeting and engaging with others, the competitive element, the feeling of being part of something bigger; something greater than the sum of its parts. In many ways it creates and sustains a life-long connectedness with self and others.

Teachers involved in the organisation of games and training have drawn up the following guidelines:

Training

After school training on the pitch

- Book pitch in advance with the Head of PE and arrange training times at start of school year.
- Ensure that boots are not worn into the school or the halls.
- At the end of the training session, the teacher/ coach will supervise the area until all pupils have left the changing rooms.
- The teacher/coach must avoid any circumstance where they are alone with a pupil.

Training in the Halls

- Halls should be booked in advance with the Head of PE with training times arranged at start of school year.
- Those using the halls are required to adhere to the guidelines established by the P.E. department and this includes staying in the hall for the duration of the training session.

Matches

- Notice of matches must be discussed with the deputy principal.
- Complete the online transport booking form and email it to the school secretary.
- Matches will be entered on the school calendar via Office 365 by the vice-principal.
- Parents/guardians must complete an online consent form if the students are travelling.

- An activity sheet should be completed detailing those going to the match, their time of departure and their expected return. This sheet must be emailed to the school secretary who will enter the relevant details on VShare.
- The details are also emailed to staff.
- Inform the students of their departure time from class. If students are required to leave during a class this information will be sent to staff by email.
- Meet students at the New Hall before a match.
- If a student is not in full uniform or full PE tracksuit they will not be allowed to travel.
- After a game the teacher **MUST** accompany the players back to the school.
- If pupils have missed lunch they are allowed a further 30 minutes and must then return to the next class. Students returning from an away match must go to normal class. If students return during the last class they must wait in the New Hall until school finishes.
- A minimum of two staff members must travel with each team ie two staff members per bus travelling.
- All efforts will be made to provide one female staff member to accompany a female team.

Equipment and Gear

- All jerseys, kits, water bottles and First Aid bags will be kept in the kit room under the stairs in the New Hall.
- Teachers/coaches are responsible for all equipment they use. Jerseys must be counted back into the bag after each games and all equipment accounted for.
- Dirtied kits should be left at the Caretaker's Room after a match.

Inform students that valuables should not be left in the changing rooms.

Student Guidelines for Matches

Students must:

- Wear full uniform or full PE tracksuit **ONLY** or you will not be allowed to go to the match.
- Have books, uniform and homework completed on the day in case the match is cancelled.
- Get and complete your homework given on that day.
- Leave class at the time given by your coach and not before.

- Meet at the New Hall before a match.
- Follow the school Code of Conduct at all times on school trips. In addition:
 - Obey the instructions of travelling staff.
 - Respect property of the school and others.
 - Remain seated, with seatbelt on, at all times whilst on a bus.

Minimising the Risk and Negative Effects of Injury

Teachers involved in the undertaking of sports should:

- All injuries must be reported as per Accident Report guidelines.
- Ensure safe conduct of training involving particular risks.
- Provide for appropriate First Aid.
- Have adequate training to provide First Aid to injured players.
- Control the pace of activity in line with student ability.
- Control progression of difficulty in line with student ability.
- Maintain the rules of the sport.
- Punish dangerous play/horseplay.
- Provide for an adequate pupil/teacher ratio for games and training.
- Insist on the use of safety equipment as appropriate.
- Do not allow injured players to continue.
- Use safe facilities and sports equipment – it is the responsibility of the teacher to ensure the equipment is safe to use.
- Withdraw faulty equipment until repaired.
- Report faulty/dangerous facilities (building/floors etc.) to the caretaker.
- Blood injuries to be treated with gloves.
- Bloodied kits may only be handled by those wearing protective gloves.

Policy Review:

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated where necessary.

Adopted by board of management on

30 May 2023

Signed by the Chair on behalf of the board of Management

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Appendix 1 Sample Information Letter for Parents

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you are aware your son/daughter is participating in the _____.
Congratulations to the team and thanks to your son/daughter for the effort and level of commitment he/she has shown this year, it is to be commended.

The _____ will be held in _____ on DATE. This will necessitate an overnight stay in a hotel.

We will be leaving the school at TIME on DATE. We will be staying in _____. Matches will be held in VENUE NAME and will begin at TIME.

The total cost of the trip is €_____.

Please fill in the attached slip giving permission for your child to attend and return it to me.

As he/she is representing the school it is expected that your son/daughter, as always, will do himself proud and will adhere to the highest level of discipline throughout the weekend.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Finally you are more than welcome to come along and see your son/daughter play if you wish.

Coach Name

Mobile Number

Appendix 2 Sample Games Permission Slip

I give permission to STUDENT NAME to participate in the trip to _____ on DATE.

I accept that our child will abide by the terms of the school's Code of Conduct whilst on this trip. Our child may not consume any alcohol or any other prohibited substance. We further accept that the Team Coach may send them home for such behaviour or for any other serious disciplinary offence.

It shall be our responsibility to arrange for any travel so required and for our child's accompaniment on such travels as may be necessitated by our child's misbehaviour.

Please fill in any relevant medical details concerning allergies or medical requirements on this form.

We also give permission to the Team Coach to take any necessary decisions for the medical treatment of our child.

Signed _____ Date _____

(Parent/Guardian)

Home No: _____ Mobile No: _____

Signed _____ Date _____

(Student)

Student Mobile No: _____