



SPORTS POLICY

DECEMBER 2025

St. Brendan's Community School

St. Brendan's Community School Mission Statement

"Our aim is to create a caring community of learning where each individual is valued as a unique human being."

Introduction

Sport has a key role to play in both school and society. All students are encouraged to engage in sporting activity as part of their physical, social and emotional development. Educators/Coaches must make use of the opportunities that sport and sporting activities provide to help the students to grow as persons. Through our Physical Education programme and extra-curricular activities, it is hoped that all students will develop into mature responsible adults and unique human beings to reflect the philosophy of our school, as stated in our mission statement: *"Our aim is to create a caring community of learning where each individual is valued as a unique human being."*

Aim of the Policy

- To create opportunities for all students to take part in and enjoy a wide variety of sports (both competitive and non-competitive).
- To ensure the safety of all sporting participants both in school and when playing sport away from school.

Underlying Principles of Support

- Inlusiveness: Students are offered exposure to a wide variety of sports (competitive & non-competitive) to meet the needs and interests of our students. All students are encouraged to take part in some sport/ activity.
- School retention: Through being involved in a sporting activity, students will develop a more positive attitude to school and enjoy being in school.

- **Improved achievement:** Through sporting events, students will develop “a healthy body” which will in turn develop “a healthy mind”. This will be reflected in greater academic success for these students.
- **Enjoyment:** All participants in school sporting events are encouraged to enjoy the experience through positive and respectful engagement with teachers, coaches, and fellow students, as well as with members of opposing teams.
- **Personal Growth:** Participants in sport will learn new skills and their self-confidence will grow.
- **Sportsmanship:** Participants in sport will develop a “team spirit” attitude which will help them in other areas of their life. A balanced attitude towards competition will be learnt where winning and losing will be handled in a spirit of true sportsmanship.
- **Lifelong Learning:** Being involved in sport at an early age will help students in adult life by continuing to take part in sports as player, coach or spectator.
- **Wellbeing:** Taking part in sport will improve the overall wellbeing of the students and provide them with the tools necessary to be responsible for their own health and wellbeing for life.

General Guidelines for Extra Curricular Activities

- The teacher will consult with the Deputy Principal to confirm the availability of the school calendar for the proposed event. A Teacher Cover Form must be completed by the teacher and submitted to the Deputy Principal on duty. A list of students attending the event should be displayed in the staff room. The teacher or coach is also responsible for creating the event on Compass and informing the canteen staff of the number of students who will be off-site for the activity.
- Adequate supervision will be in place when a team leaves the school.
- A minimum of two adults should travel to away games.
- For all away fixtures, players must travel using transport organised by the school, unless an alternative arrangement has been approved in advance by school management. The supervising teacher is responsible for booking a bus if required.
- Any sporting accidents requiring medical attention must be recorded in the Incident Report Form available in the office.

- Serious incidents must be reported to the Principal and all discipline problems on the sports field (or among supporters) will be dealt with by the teachers/coaches.
- Students will continue to use Yondr pouches for all away trips. Teachers supervising the trip are responsible for obtaining a Yondr pouch opener if students are scheduled to return after 4:00 p.m.
- The school code of discipline always applies to all students.
- Child protection guidelines will always adhered to.
- Staff safety must be always considered.


Code of Behaviour for Players and Spectators

- Players play by the rules.
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree with an official's decision, have your captain, coach or manager discuss the matter with the official during a break or after the competition.
- Work for yourself and for your team. You will both benefit.
- Co-operate with your coach, teammates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- Respect the rights, dignity, and worth of all participants regardless of their ability, cultural background or religion.
- Wear the correct attire.
- Chewing gum is prohibited when taking part in any physical activity.
- It is forbidden to wear any jewellery when taking part in any physical activity.
- Smoking or vaping is not allowed.
- Players must always behave in a responsible manner on the way to and from the game (by bus or on foot), on the playing field and in the changing rooms.

- Students are responsible for catching up on any homework missed due to absence. Each student should have the contact details of a classmate to obtain the assigned work. All missed homework must be completed and ready for the next class, as absence is not an acceptable excuse for incomplete homework.
- All students representing the school in any activity must have paid their school insurance for the current academic year. This policy is subject to periodic review by the Board of Management, in consultation with the relevant education partners.

Ratification, Implementation and Review

- This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 11/12/25
- This policy has been made available to School Personnel and the Parents' Association. It is also published on the School Website and the School App. A copy of this policy will be made available to the Department of Education and the patron upon request.
- This policy and its implementation will be reviewed by the Board of Management once every two years. Written notification that the review has been completed will be made available to School Personnel and the Parents' Association. The review will also be published on the School Website and the School App. A record of the review and its outcome will be made available, if requested, to the patron and the Department of Education.

Signed: 
Joan Hogan
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: 
John Kennedy
Principal/Secretary of Board of Management

Date: 11/12/25

Date: 11/12/25

Date of next review: _____

