



Code of Conduct for Supporting Sport

The School is extremely grateful to parents and supporters for their ongoing and valuable support for 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 attitude and behaviour before, during and after each sporting event.

Match day is inevitably an exciting occasion for all but when the stakes are high it can become a highly charged affair and emotions can potentially run out of control.

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 off the fields.

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. Having spent some time and effort over the previous years reinforcing our sporting ethos amongst the pupils, we believe it is essential that we include parents and friends of the Prep School in this process.

The following points clarify what Sedbergh Prep School believes to be essential standards associated with its sporting culture. In effect, it is a code of conduct for supporters but is intended to include you and we trust you will receive it in the way it is offered.

The Role of Parents

Parents and guardians have a 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 of their efforts. This is essential to encourage strong self-esteem and a healthy development in general. We ask parents to be positive role models, including the display of sportsmanship and the notion of fair play, and by avoiding negativity of any kind. It is not acceptable for anyone to ridicule or chastise their child or others for making a mistake or for losing a game. Parents should always encourage children to play according to the rules.

Parent-Coach Alliance

The entire coaching staff is grateful for the support, encouragement and assistance that many parents provide, often driving long distances and rearranging busy schedules to cheer on the team on a regular basis. However, it is essential that all parents and guardians agree to support their respective coach's decisions (even if they do not fully agree with them).

Please refrain from the following:

- 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 or our visitors
- All parent-coach dialogue should be non-confrontational and constructive in its content.

The coach's judgment 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.

Responsibility and Respect

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

Parents/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 because life-long memories are being created before your eyes.

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

We will close by reinforcing the message we started with; Sedbergh Prep School parents, friends and supporters play an essential role in maximizing the success of our sport and we look forward to working with you to ensure this.