



PRIOR PARK
PREP SCHOOL



SPORTS DEPARTMENT
HANDBOOK



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1. Introduction

Welcome to the Prior Park Sports Department. This includes Physical Education and Games.

This document has been written to give a comprehensive overview of the provision for sport for parents of pupils at Prior Park Preparatory School. Please do contact us, should you wish to clarify anything that you are unsure of.

At Prior Park we have a highly qualified and outstanding level of expertise in the major team sports and are supported by professional peripatetic staff for Fencing, Tennis, Dance, Judo, Archery and Golf.



2. Contact Details and Staff Information.

Teacher	Position	Responsible for	Contact details
Mr James Barton	Head of Boys' Games	Boys' Games Athletics	jbarton@priorparkschools.com
Miss Emily Bird	Head of Girls' Games	Girls' Games	ebird@priorparkschools.com
Mr Thomas Davies	Head of Physical Education	Physical Education Swimming Cross-Country	tdavies@priorparkschools.com
Mrs Rachael Fairbanks	Head of Humanities		rfairbanks@priorparkschools.com
Mr Vaughan Jelley	Deputy Headmaster		vjelley@priorparkschools.com
Mrs Becky Wisden	Teacher of Girls' Games		bwisden@priorparkschools.com
Mr Ian Barker	Head of senior PSHE and Latin Year 5 Teacher		ibarker@priorparkschools.com
Mrs Tina Larkins	Head of Learning Support, Head of Activities		tlarkins@priorparkschools.com
Mrs Emma Couling	Year 4 Teacher		ecouling@priorparkschools.com
Mr Jim O'Reilly	Head of Religious Education		joreilly@priorparkschools.com
Mr. Keith Palmer	Boys' Games Coach		kpalmer@priorparkschools.com
Miss Claire Chadwick	Head of Outdoor Learning, Year 3 Teacher		cchadwick@priorparkschools.com



3. Sports Provision per Week

Year	Physical Education	Swimming	Games
Nursery	45 mins. Wednesday	N/A	N/A
Reception	45 mins. Wednesday	30 mins. Friday	N/A
Year 1	45 mins. Wednesday	30 mins. Friday	1 hour
Year 2	45 mins. Wednesday	30 mins. Friday	1 hour
Year 3	1 hour	Summer Term in PE	2 hours
Year 4	1 hour	Summer Term in PE	3 hours (average)
Year 5	1 hour	Summer Term in PE	4 hours
Year 6	1 hour	Summer Term in PE	4 hours
Year 7	1 hour	Summer Term in PE	4 hours
Year 8	1 hour	Summer Term in PE	4 hours

4. Physical Education

The Physical Education Department aims to maintain and/or stimulate pupils' interest and enjoyment in PE and to promote health and fitness.

The pupils are taught in their form groups and receive a broad and balanced range of activities. Many of the activities are taught in the Sports Hall, including: Badminton, Dance, Gymnastics, Indoor Hockey, Basketball, Tennis, Volleyball and Health related exercise. Orienteering, Cross-Country and Athletics are taught on the field whilst Swimming is taught in the 25 metre, heated outdoor swimming pool during the Summer Term. Year 8 pupils conclude the Physical Education course with an Outdoor and Adventure Activities trip.

Pupils from Nursery to Year 2 will change in their classroom with the Class Teacher and Teaching Assistant and be escorted to their lesson.

PE Kit required:

House Polo shirt	...	white for Nursery and Reception
Navy / Green Shorts	...	Boys
Skorts	...	Girls
White Socks		
Indoor Trainers	...	bare feet for gymnastics, 1 st half of Michaelmas Term
Outdoor Trainers	...	Years 3 - 8, summer term
Swimming Costume/ Trunks	...	Summer Term

5. Swimming

Swimming is an essential life skill for all pupils at Prior Park and provision is made for year round swimming from Reception to Year 2 and as part of the PE Curriculum from Year 3 to Year 8. Junior and Senior swimming squads regularly train from Year 2 and a large number of our pupils compete at local and national events. Pupils are invited to attend the squad training sessions as a result of being identified within lessons. Selection is based on times, although potential is also taken into account.

Reception to Year 2 pupils change into tracksuits and swimming kit after lunch on a Friday and are driven to Cricklade Leisure Centre for Swimming Lesson taught by qualified Swimming Instructors. They swim in six groups over two sessions. You will be informed if your child is in the second session as they will be ready for collection from school at 4:00pm.

6. Games

Girls are taught Hockey, Netball, Rounders and Tennis, whilst boys are taught Rugby, Football, Hockey and Cricket. Pupils play matches against other schools on Monday afternoon (Year 3 and 4), Wednesday afternoons (Year 5-8) and Saturday mornings.

All pupils have the opportunity to represent the School at some point during the year and to play in house matches in each of the sports. Our pupils play in tournaments at both regional and national levels and these may occur on different days of the week including some Sundays. Pupils selected for school fixtures are expected to play and attend match tea with the opposition after the game.

Kit required for Games Lessons is listed in the following tables:

GIRLS' SPORTS KIT

Hockey	Term 1 Michaelmas Term	Compulsory	Mouthguard (Years 2 - 8) Shin Pads Water Bottle Navy Games Shirt Navy Skorts Navy Crested Socks Astro Shoes Hockey Stick Hooded Top Tracksuit bottoms
Netball	Term 2 Lent Term	Compulsory	Water Bottle Navy Games Shirt Navy Skorts Navy Crested Socks Outdoor Trainers Indoor Trainers Hooded Top



			Tracksuit bottoms
Tennis / Rounders	Term 3 Summer Term	Compulsory	Water Bottle Sun Cream White Games Shirt Navy Skorts White Socks Astro Shoes Tennis Racket (Year 5 - 8) Hooded Top Tracksuit bottoms

BOYS' SPORTS KIT

Rugby	Term 1 Michaelmas Term	Compulsory	Mouthguard (Years 4 - 8) Rugby Boots Water Bottle Reversible Games Shirt Navy / Green Shorts Navy Crested Socks Hooded Top Tracksuit bottoms Towel
		Optional	Waterproof jacket Shoulder pads Scrum hat Mouthguard (Years 2 - 3)
	Please check studs regularly to ensure they are not missing or sharp.		
Football	Term 2 Whole of Lent Term for Years 2, 3 and 4 1 st Half of Lent Term for Years 5 and 6	Compulsory	Shin Pads Astroturf Trainers Football Boots Indoor Trainers Water Bottle Reversible Games Shirt Navy / Green Shorts Navy Crested Socks Hooded Top Tracksuit bottoms Towel
		Optional	Waterproof jacket
	Please check studs regularly to ensure they are not missing or sharp.		



Hockey	Term 2	Compulsory	Mouthguard (Years 5 - 8) Shin Pads Hockey Stick Astroturf Trainers Indoor trainers Water Bottle Reversible Games Shirt Navy / Green Shorts Navy Crested Socks Hooded Top Tracksuit bottoms Towel
	Whole of Lent Term for Years 7 and 8 2nd Half of Lent Term for Years 5 and 6	Optional	Waterproof jacket Scrum hat Mouthguard (Years 2 - 3)
Cricket	Term 3	Compulsory	Water Bottle Sun Cream School Cricket Shirt White Cricket Trousers (Matches only) White Socks Hooded Top Tracksuit bottoms (Training) Towel Protective box (Year 5 - 8) Navy blue school cap
	Summer Term	Optional	Bat Helmet Batting leg guards Batting gloves Thigh pad Cricket Shoes (compulsory for 1st XI and U11A)



7. Rewards

For pupils in all Years, merits are awarded for effort in relation to the individual pupil's previous standards and/or sustained effort or performance over a period of time. The reason for merits being awarded will be explained to the pupil at the time of them being awarded. In addition to these rewards, significant performances may be posted on the display boards and announced in assemblies.

Certificates, badges and school colours (new for 2015/2016)

The teacher responsible for each competitive sports team that regularly play fixtures against other schools will nominate:

1. the player that has contributed the most to the team over the course of the term.
2. the player that has been the most hard-working through training and matches.
3. the player that has improved the most.

In addition the players themselves will be asked to nominate the player from the team that has impressed them the most and the one that they look up to. All nominees will receive a certificate. On receipt of the 5th certificate a bronze, 10th silver, 15th Gold sports badge will be given out to wear on the blazer.

School Colours are given to individuals in the First Team/ Under 13A Teams for outstanding contributions within that sport. The qualities that the coaches look for are: consistently high match performance, leadership, commitment, teamwork and attitude towards training.

Half colours are awarded to those pupils in the First Team/ Under 13 who have made an excellent contribution to the team. However, they have not yet reached the standard required for full colours: often an aspiring player in Year 7.

The highest awards that can be given to the pupils from the Games Department are the Sporting Personality Cups. These awards are given to a boy and girl that have made an outstanding contribution to School Sport. They epitomizes what Prep. School sport is about and pupils aspiring to achieve these awards should be completely dedicated to each of the teams that he / she has represented. They should be a pleasure to teach and set their personal standards very high. They should respond well to constructive criticism as well as praise and inspire their peers and other members of the school community.

The Giles Rozee Cup was presented to the school in memory of Giles, a former pupil who died shortly after he left the school. The Cup is presented annually at the request of Giles' parents, to a player from the Second Rugby Team who is not a gifted rugby player, but loves the sport and always gives his best for the team. A truly inspirational pupil!

The Rupert Agius Athletics Cup was donated in recognition of the performance of a senior pupil (girl or boy) that has achieved on the athletics field during the course of the year.



8. Prior Park Award for Potential in Sport

During the junior years of the school pupils with particular sporting ability are identified and given opportunities and guidance to develop their particular talents. In year 5 pupils attend the sports assessment day during the Michaelmas Term during which they are scored in leadership, speed and agility and for boys; Hockey, Rugby and Cricket and girls; Hockey, Netball and Tennis. After the assessment all participating pupils have a one to one meeting with the appropriate Head of Games. During this time feedback on strengths and weaknesses is given and advise how to develop as a sportsman / woman. Support is offered throughout the following year and after discussion with the parents pupils are put forward for a sporting award in Year 6. The assessment process is repeated and awards for sporting potential are offered where appropriate by the school.

Pupils receiving a sports award:

- Are assigned a mentor from the PE staff that meets regularly with the pupil to support and advise them on their development
- Lead by example in training and support the needs of the games staff
- Fulfil fixture obligations and set high standards of conduct for home and away matches
- Are expected to attend sports clubs

9. Sports Tours

In addition to the weekly fixture card and entry in local and national tournaments, further challenge is provided by regular International sports tours. This is generally a combined girls and boys tour to an appropriate venue such as Holland, Jersey, France, Dubai and Barbados. The sports tours have included pupils from the top three years of school and take place on a three year rotation.

We believe that sports tours can be an amazing experience for our pupils and in consultation with parents an appropriate destination is found to suit the needs of the pupils concerned.

Sports Tours give pupils the opportunity to develop a sense of independence and understand different cultures. The chance to play against different opposition and work as a team, support others both on and off the pitch and have fun and enjoy themselves.

10. Location of Matches

Home matches will take place in the following places.

- Astroturf (Hockey, Tennis and occasionally Football)
- Sports Hall (Netball and occasionally Hockey and Fencing)
- School Hall (Fencing)
- Main Fields (Rugby, Football, Cricket)
- Southam Pitch (Rounders, Cricket and occasionally Rugby)

For away matches, please check the team sheet on a weekly basis.

Useful postcodes for your SAT NAV.

School	Postcode
Abingdon Prep	OX13 5NX
Beauesert Park	GL6 9AF
Cheam	RG19 8LD
Cheltenham College Prep	GL53 7AB
Clifton College Main Site (Beggar's Bush)	BS8 3HE (BS8 3QD)
Cokethorpe	OX29 7PU
Dean Close	GL51 6HE
Hatherop Castle	GL7 3NB
Manor Prep	OX13 6LN
Oratory	RG8 7SF
Pinewood	SN6 8HZ
Prior Park College / The Paragon	BA2 5AH
St. Edward's Cheltenham	GL53 8EY
St. Mary's / St. Margaret's	SN11 0DF
The Downs Malvern	WR13 6EY
The Downs Wraxall	BS48 1PF
Wycliffe	GL10 2JQ

11. Selection for Matches

At Prior Park we are proud of our inclusive attitude to fixtures and as a result all our pupils have the opportunity to represent the school over the course of the year. At the start of the term all pupils are assessed and given the opportunity to demonstrate what they are capable of, however we do appreciate through coaching and in matches pupils show different skills and good dialogue between coaches and team teaching allows for all our pupils to be exposed to a high level of coaching and be selected in the most appropriate team. Whilst all pupils have opportunity to represent the school teams are based on ability in order to allow fixtures with other schools to be arranged at the right level. We are committed to sport for all and potential, inclusion and social development are important factors in encouraging all our pupils to have positive sporting experiences that support our developing a desire for lifelong participation in sport for all our pupils.

We encourage dialogue between players and coaches and we would appreciate your support by asking your son / daughter to speak to their coach if they are not sure as to why they have been selected in a given position or team.

Pupils will be informed that they are playing for matches by the end of the games session that proceeds the match day. Team sheets should be displayed on the games notice board by the following times:

For Monday games on Friday by 5:00pm
For Wednesday games on Tuesday by 5:00pm
For Saturday games on Thursday by 5:00pm

Please note that this is not always possible due to extra-curricular commitments, duties and other exceptional circumstances.

12. Fixtures

We have a good balance of training, single fixtures and tournaments for our pupils at Prior Park. All fixture information is published on the school website and on the games notice board outside the girls' dormitory.

If selected for a fixture, all pupils are expected to attend. School fixtures are part of the school day and must take priority over other commitments. In exceptional circumstances, permission must be sought in writing from the Headmaster for a match to be missed.

All pupils must attend match tea. We regard the post-match niceties as an essential part of the fixture process and one that helps to teach our children about sportsmanship and respect. Please do not ask to take your child before match tea as it puts the member of staff in a difficult position.



13. House Sport

House competition is an important element of sport at Prior Park and allows all of our pupils to participate. We have house competitions in the major team sports played each term and big whole school events for the Swimming Gala and Sports Day.

14. Code of Conduct

Sport is an essential part of Prep. School Life and the Prior Park Schools are renowned for playing sport in the right spirit and being well supported by knowledgeable and respectful parents. This is something that we are proud of and are keen to maintain.

Our pupils and staff are expected to maintain the highest standards of conduct. In order to help maintain our reputation we would appreciate your support in upholding our core values:

We would ask that you:

- Show respect to officials and opposition players
- Support through encouraging and positive comments
- Applaud good play from both sides
- Remember that development and enjoyment is more important than the final score
- Enjoy the event and show your enthusiasm to the players

