

CORE PRINCIPLES IN CHILDREN'S PE AND SCHOOL SPORT¹

Outlined below are the core principles in children's PE and School Sport. Teachers and AOTTs must work through these carefully, discussing each point.

Importance of childhood

The right to happiness within childhood must be recognised and enhanced at all levels of PE and School Sport.

Needs of the child

All children's PE and School Sport experiences and contexts must be guided by a child orientated approach.

Integrity

Adults interacting with children in PE and School Sport should do so with integrity and respect for the child.

Fair Play

All children's PE and School Sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play.

Quality atmosphere and ethos

Children's PE and School Sport should be conducted in a safe, positive and encouraging atmosphere. A child orientated ethos will help to ensure that competition and specialisation are kept in their appropriate place.

Equality

All children should be treated in an equitable and fair manner regardless of age, ability, gender, religion, social and ethnic background or political persuasion.

Importance of Sports Leaders

Sports Leaders play a vital role in PE and School Sport. Without them, children's PE and School Sport could not flourish. Sports Leaders gain a great sense of achievement and satisfaction through their contribution to children's PE and School Sport.

Education and training

Adults who take responsibility for children in PE and School Sport have a duty to ensure that they are competent to provide safe and rewarding experiences for those in their care through appropriate continuing professional development (CPD), which includes taking opportunities for training and education.

Benefit of PE and School Sport for children

Children have a lot to gain from PE and School Sport. Their natural sense of fun and spontaneity can blossom in positive PE and sporting environments which promote progress in a child orientated way. PE and School Sport provide an excellent medium in which children can learn new skills, become more confident and maximise their own unique potential.

¹ Adapted from Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland (2000) by the Irish Sports Council and Sports Council for Northern Ireland.

