

Emerging Talent Policy

Sevenoaks School has a number of exceptionally talented boys and girls in a variety of co-curricular areas such as sport, drama and music. In general they are expected to participate fully in all areas of the school: pastoral, academic and co-curricular. However, we recognise that elite performance requires great dedication. Therefore, in exceptional circumstances, we will agree to special arrangements, confirmed in writing and reviewed annually, depending on:

1. satisfactory academic results;
2. progress in the particular area of elite performance;
3. continued commitment to the school and their chosen sport.

How do we define elite performance?

Each case will be looked at on individual merits but, as a general rule, in the case of sports, elite performance means regional (not county) representation. Examples where special arrangements might be made include:

- High national tennis rankings and ratings with aspiration to play in national qualifiers
- Futures Cup hockey selection
- Selection for a team playing in the regional netball league
- National Youth Orchestra or membership of a specialist music programme, e.g. JRCM
- Membership of a specialist dance programme, e.g. at the Royal Ballet, Central School of Ballet, English National Ballet, Cecchetti or the CAT scheme

Requests will be considered if students are judged by the school to be on a clear 'pathway' to this standard.

Playing county sport, although a fantastic achievement and one that the School is keen to encourage, is not normally considered sufficient to miss school sports fixtures.

What are the special arrangements that can be made?

Each case will be looked at individually but as a guideline:

Music:

Musicians may be allowed to attend music college on a Saturday. Other individual arrangements will be considered on their merit.

Individual sports/activities:

The expectations in these sports are frequently that students will be doing a high level of training from a young age:

Years 7-9

There is some degree of flexibility with certain timetabled subjects. In general, we expect students to play team sport but exceptions may be made in exceptional circumstances.

Year 10 and above

We will proactively identify those we consider elite and contact them about how we can best support them with their chosen sport. Individual sportsmen/women will probably be allowed to opt out of team sport at this stage. There may be flexibility in opting out of Thursday afternoon activities.

Team sports:

The expectations in team sports do not usually increase until students are slightly older.

Years 7-9

Very few exceptions will be made as we feel it is important that all students experience a full range of school team sport. However, requests to be part of the Emerging Talent Programme will be considered from Y10 onwards if a player is Nationally Ranked or holds International Honours.

Year 10

We will proactively identify those we consider elite and contact them about how we can best support them with their chosen sport. Students may be allowed to opt out of up to one third of school Saturday afternoons during the 'off term' to play club sport. Combined with exeats and holidays, this should allow the students to play more than half the club matches.

Year 11 and above

Students may be allowed to opt out of school Saturday sport completely during the 'off term' to enable them to play club sport.

The school requires students to represent the school in their specialist area. A tennis player for example must represent the school tennis team and a musician must play in the relevant ensembles. They cannot substitute external activities for school representation.