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| **Hockey Development Festival Yr 5/6**  Monday 17th November 2025  09:30 – 12:30 | **Wimbledon High School**  Playing Fields  Nursery Road  SW19 4JA |

**Booking**

* This is a **Development Festival** event.
* Schools may choose EITHER a Borough Championships OR a Development event per each sport, on the initial booking date of:
* Monday 15th September 2025 at 5pm
* They can then book onto the other event, should they wish to for another set of children, on the open booking date a week later:
* Monday 22nd September 2025
* If an event is full, schools will be placed on a waiting list and be notified of this.
* MSSP will contact schools should places become available in the build-up to events.

**Team Eligibility**

* Age: Yr 5/6
* Mixed gender event
* 4 v 4 matches - 2 boys and 2 girls on the pitch at any time
* Maximum of 8 players per squad
* **For squad sizes over 5 – there must be least 3 players of opposite gender to a squad.**
* **NO ROTATION SHEETS** – but please ensure all players get regular game time.

**Event Eligibility**

* **This is a Development Festival event. The intent is to encourage participation and no scores or results will be recorded at this event.**
* There will be an initial rotation of skill-based hockey games followed by a group of hockey matches for each team.
* School squads should be familiar with the competition rules before attending this event, although umpiring will be appropriate for the level of competition.
* The intent and principles of the competition have been designed to support pupils learning of the game and not be restricted by enforcement of the rules. We anticipate that many children may not have played competitively before and aim for children to learn more about the sport throughout the day.
* There is also Hockey Borough Championships event being delivered this year. Please consider the most appropriate event for your pupils to attend before registering.
* Schools cannot select the same pupils for the Development event and the Borough Championships. In the instance that a Championship team player has also played in a Development Competition team, the team will not be able to progress to a medal winning position.
* If our Hockey events exceed their capacity for school entrees, priority will be given to schools who are not registered for the Hockey Borough Championships.
* It is our aim to ensure all schools can access at least one of the events.

**Kit & Equipment**

* All schools MUST provide their own First Aid kit along with a first aid qualified member of staff.
* Shin-protectors and mouthguards are highly recommended.
* Players of the same team should wear the same colour tops/bibs.
* No studded boots to be worn.
* No jewellery, baseball caps etc.
* It is advised that if eyewear is essential, it should be made from plastic rather than glass.

**Staffing and Spectators**

* **Spectators will not be permitted entry** to the school/private sports facilities.
* Primary schools must inform parents in advance when inviting students to take part.

**Rules**

* 4 players per team on pitch at any time. 2 boys and 2 girls.
* Maximum of 8 players per squad
* **For squad sizes over 5 – there must be least 3 players of opposite gender to a squad.**
* **NO ROTATION SHEETS – but please ensure all players get regular game time.**
* No Goal Keepers permitted.
* A goal is scored if the ball crosses the line after being struck by any stick within the scoring circle.
* A penalty goal is given if a defender deliberately prevents the ball crossing the line using their feet or body.
* A free pass is given when an offence occurs. It is to be taken from where the offence occurred (unless in scoring circle) and all opposing players must move 3 metres away.
* Fouls in the scoring circle will be taken from 1m outside the circle nearest to where the foul took place.
* A foot foul or stick tackle is only applicable if deliberate, if it causes a significant advantage to the defending team or, if in the umpire’s opinion, it is deemed as dangerous play.
* When the ball crosses the back line after being touched by an attacker, the defending team play the ball from the top of the scoring circle while the attacking team must all retreat to their defending half.
* Players cannot play any ball over knee height.
* Players cannot use the back (rounded) part of the stick.

**Event Format**

* There will be an initial rotation of skill-based hockey games followed by a group of hockey matches for each team.
* Match duration will be dependent on entries and determined at the time of the draw.

**Draw Format**

* This will be confirmed depending on the number of team entries.

**Awards**

* This is a festival-based event with no group or overall winners.
* REFSPECT winners - Certificate
* Participation certificates will be presented to all participants.

**Results**

* Results and event report will be available on the news webpage within 24 hours of the event ending.

**Winner's Pathway**

* There is no planned pathway from this event and there may not be an overall winner.

**First Aid**

MSSP will have a basic first aid kit and qualified person at all events but will not be available to tend to less urgent first aid, as they will be delivering the event. As part of the school’s risk assessment a qualified first aider should always be with the school team (including travel) to tend to their children during the event.

**Team-sheets**

To help us support our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion aims, all school teams must complete and submit the attached **MSSP Event Entry - EDI Team sheet** to register for this event. We do not require the children's names, just initials or first names are fine. This data is vital to help us improve equity and access for all. We want all Merton students to be able to represent their schools in activities they enjoy and, in an environment, where they feel a sense of belonging. The data you provide us will help us to review and improve our offer as we strive to achieve this.

**Risk Assessments**

Please see the **Risk Assessment** in the 'Resources' section on the event webpage for event specific planning and considerations.

*mertonssp.org.uk/competitions*

**REFSPECT**

MSSP values the contributions by all those involved in making our events a **FUN,** safe and enjoyable environment for children to take part in sport. To ensure our events continue to be successful we promote our REFSPECT campaign. We expect everyone attending our events to maintain respect for the rules, officials, opponents, teammates and themselves. Only designated staff and volunteers will be allowed on the side-lines. All spectators are to remain behind the barriers, providing positive support and encouraging a fun and fair event.

If any staff, adults or children are deemed to be in breach of our REFSPECT codes of conduct they will be asked to leave the event, and the Head Teacher of the relevant school will be informed immediately.

For more information about REFSPECT and codes of conduct for attendance at our events, please [**click here**](https://mertonssp.org.uk/refspect/)

*mertonssp.org.uk/refspect*

**Photo Consent**

Photographs will be taken at this event by staff members from MSSP and may be used for promotional material. If you have any children that do not have permission to be photographed, please inform a member of staff before the start of the event.

Please ensure your school only take photographs of their own students and do not share any photos of other children on social media without consent from that school.

**Social Media**

For information and updates from our events, please follow and use the platforms below:

**Email:** [info@mertonssp.org.uk](mailto:info@mertonssp.org.uk)

**X:** [x.com/MertonSSP](https://x.com/MertonSSP)

**Instagram:** [instagram.com/mertonssp](https://www.instagram.com/mertonssp)

**MSSP Duty of Care**

MSSP have a duty to take all measures that are reasonable in the circumstances to ensure the health, safety, wellbeing and welfare of all participants and any other attendees involved in the relevant event. MSSP have tried to ensure that all reasonable steps have been taken in its duty of care being discharged, and to the requisite standard of care, MSSP have ensured the following guidance and actions have been adhered to and carried out:

That the advice of the UK Government and public health authorities has been followed

That the bespoke guidance and protocols issued by the relevant NGB, federation and/or umbrella organisation (if applicable) have been followed.

**Safeguarding and DBS**

MSSP acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and the requirements of the Partnership’s host organisation, the Harris Federation.

We recognise that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. We aim to ensure that regardless of age, ability or disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, all children and young leaders:

have a positive and enjoyable experience of sport or physical activity at MSSP events in a safe and child centred environment are protected from abuse whilst participating or officiating at MSSP events.

All MSSP staff at the event are fully vetted and enhanced DBS checked. It is the schools’ responsibility to ensure any staff and volunteers who attend the event comply with the host venue safeguarding and welfare policy and can provide documentation to support this on request.

If you have any concerns about a child at our event, please make sure you say something. The MSSP safeguarding team contact details will be on display at all events or for more information on who to speak to please [**click here**](https://mertonssp.org.uk/contact/)

*mertonssp.org.uk/contact*

**Comments, Compliments and Complaints**

MSSP aims to deliver a first-class service to all its stakeholders. We see all feedback, whether good or bad, as a valuable way for us to learn and improve. Therefore, we welcome all comments, compliments and complaints. For further details, please [**click here**](https://mertonssp.org.uk/comments-compliments-and-complaints/)

*mertonssp.org.uk/comments-compliments-and-complaints*