



**ENGLAND
FOOTBALL**

Connecting People. Changing Lives.

Berks & Bucks FA Female School-Club Link

Providing a pathway for girls to play Football



Background

- *A school-club link is a formal agreement between a school and a community club that creates a mutually beneficial partnership between the two. The link provides a pathway for young people from school football to community football, engaging them in football as participants, volunteers, coaches and/or officials.*
- *School-club links help create a channel of regular and effective communication between schools and clubs and by creating these strong relationships this can encourage regular and lifelong participation in sport, reducing the drop-out rates associated with young people*
- *A strong school-club link will also provide structured activity for pupils to participate regularly whether that is in coaching sessions, competitions or leadership opportunities.*
- *As a result of the school-club link, more young people will hopefully take part in football; either as a player, coach or official therefore increasing young people's enjoyment and participation in lifelong physical activity.*



Programme Outline

- *Process initiated by EOI Form circulated to Clubs and Schools*
- *Those not already familiar will be introduced*
- *Joint application submitted by School and Club co-operatively*
- *Applications assessed and accepted links will be required to attend online introductory session further detailing programme and opportunity to ask any questions and gain clarification*
- *Formal Link forged between 1 School & 1 Club bound by an SLA*
- *Travel time from School to Club will not exceed 20 mins*
- *BBFA to circulate Marketing Materials to Advertise Link – Both School and Club **MUST** advertise Link*



Criteria

Schools:

E - Appropriate facilities where session delivery is possible

E - Sign up to GFSP programme and pledge to ensure Girls have equal access to Football by 2024

E - All Have Knowledge of Exit Routes (Wildcats/Clubs)

E - Have a Safeguarding Policy in place, as well as a Designated Safeguarding Individual or point of contact for any issues and communicate this clearly with the club.

Must fulfil 1 of the 3 desirable criteria below:

D – School to offer facilities for Training/Matches

D – Willing to use Link to increase and sustain football provision (in-curriculum/extra-curricular)

D – School willing to undertake CPD (FA Playmaker/FA PE Qualification) as part of the upskilling process

Clubs:

E – Working Towards or be England Football Accredited

E - Coaches must have an in-date DBS, and Level 1 (I2CF)

E - Club will be able to provide a team OR Recreational Programme for players to progress to/have the ability to create one

E - Have a Safeguarding Children Policy which is shared with and accepted by the School, as well as a clear individual responsible for the welfare of the Children, which should be communicated to the school as a point of contact for any issues.

Must fulfil 1 of the 4 desirable criteria below:

D - Club can provide coaching and refereeing opportunities for those who wish to explore this

D - Club will have a recreational programme running for those not ready for immediate transition into organised team Football.

D - Will provide session delivery either in School or bring school to club

D - Provide facilities for School Festivals



Benefits

Schools:

- *More active & healthier Pupils*
- *Raised school community profile – attract new pupils*
- *£400 funding to share with club*
- *Strengthen Football offer and continued pathways for young people via exit routes*
- *Develop student life skills beyond school and encourage lifelong participation*
- *Increased standard in school teams*
- *Access to club equipment and football expertise from coaches, volunteers and club staff*

Clubs:

- Increase membership numbers
- Increased player talent pool
- Potential to share equipment
- Increased access to training/match venues
- Raised profile within sport & local community to attract new players and volunteers
- £400 funding to share with School
- Increased potential to recruit new volunteers
- Opportunity to access a wider pool of young leaders, coaches & officials of the future

Young People:

- Improved opportunities to access football in the local community
- Talent to be identified & nurtured
- Transition confidently in a safe and familiar environment of school & club
- Opportunity to develop coaching & leadership
- Choose club programs that are suited to them
- Recognise how PE prepares them for involvement in clubs at a junior age



Programme Monitoring

- *Quarterly Report Submitted by School and Club to BBFA outlining progress, and any challenges using Template*
- *Performance of the Link will be measured via this report and the data collected*
- *Clubs involved will be asked to monitor the School of incoming players to measure link school sign ups*