



7th-13th
February
2022

Let's Celebrate the Return of Schools' Football

Schools' Football Week is an ongoing ESFA initiative designed as an opportunity for schools, Associations, teams and clubs from across the country to embrace schools' football and the wellbeing benefits it provides to pupils and players. It celebrates the importance of schools' football, competitive or otherwise, to pupils across England and provides teachers and coaches with tools and a motivation to further discuss the benefits of schools' football within their educational environment.

The main focus for Schools' Football Week 2021 was to provide an opportunity for children to get outside, have fun and enjoy being able to play sport with their school friends, after so much time spent in lockdown. We are sticking to these principles for 2022, but with the schools' football season in full swing for 21/22, the ESFA has received an all-time record number of girls' team entries. SFW presents the perfect opportunity to go one step further to highlight and celebrate girls' football too.

in association with

Haier



@SchoolsFootball



@SchoolsFootball

#SchoolsFootballWeek



www.schoolsfootball.org

This guide

We have put together a short guide for you, providing some helpful information on how to plan your matches or tournament – whether you're playing on a playground, on a field with jumpers for goal posts, or a 3G pitch – Schools' Football Week is for everyone, using whatever you have available and some ideas for how you can celebrate Schools' Football week for 2022.

Taking part

Inter-house or intra-school tournaments

Any school can run an inter-house (or inter-form) or intra-school football tournament for boys and/or girls. This could be hosted at lunchtime, after school or during PE lessons and yours could take any format that you wish. For example, a group phase followed by a final, or just a straight forward knockout competition. You could get other pupils involved by making banners to support teams or even writing supporter songs. In the spirit of celebrating Girls' Football for 2022 – maybe you could host an all-girls tournament, or encourage a record number of girls in your own school to take part in activity, just like in our National Cups.

Football formats

You can choose to use whichever format of football best suits your requirements: 11-a-side, 9-a-side, 7-a-side, 6-a-side, indoor 5-a-side or even futsal if you have the facilities available. The objective of Schools' Football Week is to get as many children playing or talking about football as possible and enjoying the game in a safe and secure environment, regardless of their ability. Remember: children should only play in 2-year age bands in accordance with FA rules.

Pupil activity for lunchtime...or any time

There are some other great examples of how you can introduce football into the school day for Schools' Football Week 2022 – we've put a short list together for you below, but maybe you have other ideas you'd like to try too -

- Coaching sessions for pupils
- PE warm-up sessions based on football drills
- Crossbar challenges (you could try pupils v teachers!)
- Penalty shootout games or competitions
- Freestyle football skills

Some helping hands...

In association with Haier:

This year, the ESFA is delighted to announce a new partnership with Haier, the No.1 Global Major appliance brand who will support the Schools' Football Week campaign and help raise more awareness of this initiative than ever before.

Pro:Direct:

New ESFA partners, Pro:Direct will be backing Schools' Football Week by providing a football giveaway to schools, associations and teams that register activity for SFW 2022. This opportunity is a great example of Pro:Direct's ongoing support of Schools' Football and hopefully will help encourage you to do the same.

Off-the-pitch activities

One of the things we love about schools' football is that it's about so much more than just playing the game. We want to inspire and educate pupils on how many different routes there are into football as a career, not necessarily on the pitch.

Panini worksheets:

ESFA partners, Panini UK will be creating some worksheets for pupils to fill out which will be available to download via this [link](#). Panini have a rich history within football, worldwide and they have brought together some facts about what they do, who they are and girls' football, specifically for Schools' Football Week 2022.

PlayStation F.C. Schools' Cup:

The sponsors of the U12 – U15 Schools' Cup competitions will be once again supporting Schools' Football Week in 2022. Stay tuned to find out their plans and how you can get involved!

Premier League Primary Stars:

Premier League Primary Stars produce a whole host of free activities and resources to bring football into the classroom for primary age children across English, Maths and PSHE topics. We're delighted to share some of those with you to try and give you some additional ideas on how you can introduce physical activity and football into your curriculums this February and beyond.

Active literacy resources

Active numeracy resources

UCFB:

ESFA Higher Education partners, UCFB (University Campus of Football Business) are offering free careers sessions for schools across England. This is a fantastic way to engage your pupils in the world of football, explaining that you don't have to be a player to enjoy a fantastic career within football business.

The OddBalls Foundation:

Our Charity partners, The OddBalls Foundation, are offering free presentations on testicular cancer and the importance of erasing the stigma around it for schools. This is suitable for pupils aged 11+. It's fantastic to provide this kind of information to our schools and we hope our uptake this year is as great as in previous seasons.

Former players:

If you have former schools' football players who have gone on to have a professional career, maybe you could reach out to them and see if they're available to speak to your current students, online or in person (depending on guidance & restrictions). Most professional clubs have community programmes in place designed for exactly this. A great way to inspire the next generation.



#SchoolsFootballWeek



www.schoolsfootball.org

in association with

Haier

Share your experiences

Schools' Football Week is all about you, your players, your pupils and your collective experiences. We will use this week to highlight the widespread joy that schools' football brings to children of all ages, whether they play in a school team, representative team, enjoy freestyling or tricks, playing for fun with their friends or learning through and about football. Whatever form Schools' Football Week takes for you & your players – we want to hear all about it!

We have set up a link to register your school as taking part in Schools' Football Week. In May 2021, we registered over 100,000 pupils taking part in activity, so we hope to be able to do the same in 2022. However big or small your participation will be, it all counts, it's all valuable and it all matters. You are helping us to create something exciting and wonderful!

Click [here](#) to register

Don't stop at registration...

- You can use social media to share plans and ideas, to tell people in your local area about what you're doing, to highlight accomplishments and share your stories
- You can contact your local media or MP to recognise the support you are giving to Schools' Football Week
- You can shout from the rooftops about how you are participating in Schools' Football Week 2021

Remember to use [#schoolsfootballweek](#) and tag [@schoolsfootball](#) in any posts you share online so we can celebrate your successes with you. You can tag us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. If you would like any press release or MP letter templates, please contact sarah.kearney@schoolsfa.com directly to request support and we will be glad to help you out.

 @SchoolsFootball

 @SchoolsFootball

#SchoolsFootballWeek

www.schoolsfootball.org



in association with

Haier

Remember to have fun

The impact of the global pandemic has shown us that it's more important than ever to focus on enjoyment and wellbeing both in and out of school – let Schools' Football Week be a part of that for you.

Further information:

Click on the links below for further information or resources on any of the following topics – Click here to register your activity

Planning:

Social media assets
Classroom resources
SFW downloadable certificate

Events:

SFW – Celebrating Girls' Football
SFW – Live Draws
SFW – Deaf Schools' Finals

 @SchoolsFootball

 @SchoolsFootball

#SchoolsFootballWeek



www.schoolsfootball.org

in association with

Haier

The importance of Schools' Football Week



Schools' Football WEEK

- To share the importance of Schools' Football across England
- To show proof of the mental and physical benefits of schools' football
- To build excitement for the return of Schools' Football
- To heighten the profile of the English Schools' FA as Governing Body for Schools' Football in England
- To elevate and promote participation numbers for schools' football
- To showcase the talent and dedication shown by schools in England to support football as part of the curriculum



@SchoolsFootball



@SchoolsFootball

#SchoolsFootballWeek



www.schoolsfootball.org

in association with

Haier

ESFA



Schools' Football WEEK

7th-13th
February
2022

500
Schools

Over 500 schools
registered participation
in 2021

6500
Teams

Over 6,500 teams
have registered to
take part in ESFA
National Cup
competitions for
21/22

1702
Girls'
Teams

1,702 girls' teams have entered
National Cup comps in 21/22,
equating to approximately
30,000 girls

100,000
Pupils

Over 100,000 pupils in
England took part in
Schools' Football Week
activity in 2021

In 2022

Aside from celebrating and championing girls' football this season, we are also focussing on:

- Celebrating the ESFA's live draws for National Schools' Cup quarter and semi-final matches on Monday 7 February
- Celebrating and promoting the Deaf Schools' Finals, which take place on Tuesday 8 February

#SchoolsFootballWeek



www.schoolsfootball.org

in association with

Haier

15

BENEFITS

of playing Schools' Football

English Schools' Football Association



Improves cognitive, social, emotional & intellectual skills



Provides opportunities to develop positive relationships



Activity improves brain function



Positive impact on pupil behaviour & truancy



Helps children to feel that they are part of a team



Can enhance academic achievement



Teaches respect



Encourages teamwork



Enhances positive decision making



Improves communication skills



Improves problem solving



Reduces anxiety & stress



Helps build resilience



Reduces obesity



Provides a sense of pride to represent their school

ESFA MISSION

The English Schools' Football Association promotes these 15, plus many more, benefits to hundreds of thousands of school children across England each year. Working with a network of thousands of volunteers, schools and teachers, children in England are able to enjoy the competitive and engaging environment of schools' football. If you would like to volunteer for the Association, or find out more please take a look at our social channels and our website to get in touch

- Self-discipline, loyalty and resilience
- Respect for those around them
- Positive decision making
- A healthy lifestyle and physical skills
- A love and understanding of the game through enjoyment and achievement