



E S F A



**English
Schools'
Football
Association**

About the English Schools' Football Association

A Guide For Teachers

The English Schools' Football Association



About

The English Schools' Football Association (ESFA) is the National Governing Body for Schools' Football in England. The ESFA is proud of its values, based on that of an educational establishment, with its Board and Membership largely being made up of qualified teachers. These values allow the Association to celebrate players who have chosen to build a secure foundation for themselves with qualifications, wherever their football careers may take them. The Association provides over 1 million footballing opportunities for school pupils in England, each year.

Our National Network

Very many of the opportunities for children to play are created by the ESFA's national network of volunteers, working hard across the country, to provide opportunities for children to play locally and in their county, in hundreds of inter-school competitions for different age groups. These volunteer networks also provide opportunities for talented players to represent their District or County Schools' FA and to compete with other representative teams across England. As well as creating opportunities to play, these Districts and Counties provide a great vehicle for your young leaders to get involved in voluntary work, or for your aspiring match officials to get an early taste of officiating, in a safe and secure schools' environment.

The Association generates footballing activity for around 700,000 children across the country each season, with over 100,000 pupils taking part in National Schools' Cup competitions. Working with sponsors such as PlayStation, Arnold Clark, Pokémon, Pro:Direct, and Panini, the ESFA consistently works to create new and improved opportunities for schools' football players in England, whilst working hard to create equal and inclusive access to the sport, in particular its provision of girls' football.

National Schools' Cup Competitions

The ESFA now runs over 60 National Cup competitions, 39 of which are National Schools' Cup competitions for both primary and secondary school teams. In the 23/24 season, the ESFA has seen the highest number of competition entries for the second consecutive season, with over 7,500 teams from over 1,400 schools entering into secondary competitions alone.

The Association has continually worked to improve its offering of National Cup competitions and now boasts girls', boys', "b" team, elite and small schools' cup competitions at every age group from U11 – U18. The ESFA tries to provide a route into competitive football for squads of all abilities and schools of all sizes to give as many pupils as possible the opportunity to represent their school at a national level.



English
Schools'
Football
Association

About the English Schools' Football Association

A Guide For Teachers

U11 Pokémon Primary Schools' Cup



The ESFA run three Primary Schools' Cup competitions under the Pokémon Primary Schools' Cup brand. The Pokémon Primary Schools' Cup is in its second season and is working hard to ensure that all players and teams feel they are part of the wider Pokémon Primary Schools' Cup campaign.

These competitions begin at District rounds, leading to County, Regional and then National Finals, which usually take place around May – June. To find out how you can take part in the Pokémon Schools' Cup in your area, contact your local County Schools' FA. If you need help in finding who this is, then you can email competitions@schoolsfa.com

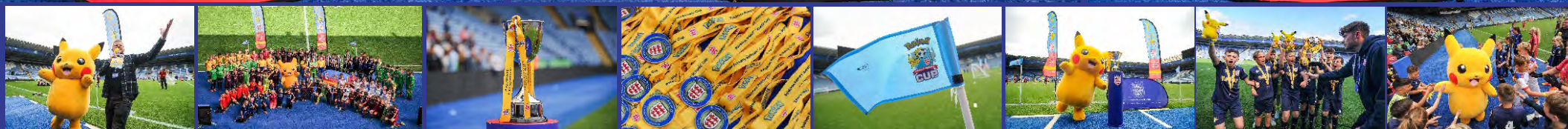
U11 Pokémon Primary Schools' Cup



U11 Pokémon Primary Schools' Cup for Girls



U11 Pokémon Primary Schools' Small Schools' Cup



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English
Schools'
Football
Association

About the English Schools' Football Association

A Guide For Teachers

U12 – U15 PlayStation Schools' Cup



The PlayStation Schools' Cup is in its 11th season and the partnership works hard to promote the playing of fixtures throughout the tournament, but also to provide additional benefits to schools in an aim to engage with school pupils that may wish to be involved in football via alternative routes. The 23/24 season sees the second PlayStation Schools' Cup E-Sports tournament, which gives 32 schools the opportunity to host in-house E-sports football tournaments, with the winners attending National Finals alongside the PlayStation Schools' Cup football finals in May.

Small Schools' Cup competitions are designed so that schools with a much lower number of pupils aren't forced to compete against much larger schools in competitions

Girls can play in any of the schools' cup competitions in mixed teams, but 'Girls' Cup' competitions are designed specifically for the development of the girls' game

U12 9v9 PlayStation Schools' Cup
U12 9v9 PlayStation Schools' Cup for B Teams
U12 9v9 PlayStation Elite Schools' Cup
U12 9v9 PlayStation Small Schools' Cup
U12 9v9 PlayStation Schools' Cup for Girls
U13 PlayStation Schools' Cup
U13 PlayStation Schools' Cup for B Teams
U13 9v9 PlayStation B Team Schools' Cup for Girls
U13 PlayStation Elite Schools' Cup
U13 PlayStation Small Schools' Cup
U13 9v9 PlayStation Small Schools' Cup for Girls
U13 PlayStation Schools' Cup for Girls
U14 PlayStation Schools' Cup
U14 PlayStation Schools' Cup for B Teams
U14 PlayStation Elite Schools' Cup
U14 PlayStation Small Schools' Cup
U14 PlayStation Schools' Cup for Girls
U15 PlayStation Schools' Cup
U15 PlayStation Schools' Cup for B Teams
U15 9v9 PlayStation B Team Schools' Cup for Girls
U15 PlayStation Elite Schools' Cup
U15 PlayStation Small Schools' Cup
U15 9v9 PlayStation Small Schools' Cup for Girls
U15 PlayStation Schools' Cup for Girls



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English
Schools'
Football
Association

About the English Schools' Football Association

A Guide For Teachers

U16 – U18 Arnold Clark Schools' Cup



**Arnold
Clark**
SCHOOLS' CUP



**ESFA
Arnold
Clark**
U18 SUPER LEAGUE

23/24 has seen the ESFA embark on a new partnership with Arnold Clark, who are proud sponsors of the U16 – U18 Schools' Cup competitions, including the two U18 Super League competitions. The Arnold Clark Schools' Cup competitions also include Elite, B Team, Small Schools' & Girls' variations to ensure the pathway for teams to progress from U12 – U18 is available at all ages.

The U18 Arnold Clark Super League competitions are an elite sector of Schools' Cup competition and are the only ESFA competitions that permit private education providers to enter, taking the competitions to a new level.



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**English
Schools'
Football
Association**

About the English Schools' Football Association

A Guide For Teachers

Additional Activities & Growth



The English Schools' FA work hard to show all school pupils that, regardless of their abilities or interests, there might be opportunities for them within football – whether that's during their school life or in the future.

- The ESFA works with partners such as the University Campus of Football Business (UCFB) to provide careers sessions for pupils across the wider world of football
- The Association also works with Panini on the Classroom Challenge activities for primary schools, to bring together art and design along with football facts
- The Association carefully selects its sponsors and partners to ensure that they provide goods or services that are beneficial to schools, teachers and coaches and that

The Association regularly consults its loyal customer-base of schools to ensure it caters to the many and varying requirements of English schools. From introducing additional competition opportunities to support the growth of the girls' game, to amending football formats to best suit age groups of players; the ESFA's aim is to create a fair and diverse range of opportunities for all school children in England to benefit from the activities provided.



E S F A



English
Schools'
Football
Association

About the English Schools' Football Association

A Guide For Teachers

A Diverse Approach

The Association is working on continuing to grow its diversity within schools' football by creating new opportunities for pupils that wouldn't ordinarily get the chance to participate in footballing activity. The ESFA's Deaf Schools' finals has grown in popularity over the seasons and the Association's vision is to include more opportunities for those pupils with disabilities and a range of diverse needs and requirements. benefit from the activities provided.



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English
Schools'
Football
Association

About the English Schools' Football Association

A Guide For Teachers

Campaigns Designed for Schools



The ESFA continually evolves the opportunities it has available to schools to ensure that it can promote the importance and benefits of schools' football through a variety of means that, in turn, can benefit the schools that take part.

Schools' Football Week

Schools' Football Week is an ongoing initiative created by the English Schools' FA and designed as an opportunity for schools, teams and associations 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, from the pitch to the classroom [[click here](#) to find out more about Schools Football Week 5th 11th February 2024]

ESFA Hotshots

Hotshots is all about intra-school football. The project's aim is to get as many young people as possible playing schools' football and to build on the success of the campaign since its conception in 2021, which has seen over 80,000 young people taking part so far. The ESFA incentivises this activity, so that each school that signs up and organises intra-school football during the 23/24 school year will be entered into a prize draw, with the possibility of winning a £1,500 cash prize in their relevant category. [[click here](#) to find out more and register for Hotshots 22/23]

Kickabout Football Festivals

The ESFA, Premier League, through the Premier League Charitable Fund, and The FA joined forces last year to create the Kickabout campaign for year 3 and 4 pupils in England. The campaign, which aims to provide children aged between six and eight with a fun and accessible route into schools' football, has been a resounding success. More than 4,500 pupils have benefitted from the activity hosted at over 24 locations across England, which have been key in driving participation among both boys and girls. Schools are invited to take part in this activity by local organisers, but to find out more, you can email dan.smith@schoolsfa.com

E S F A



English
Schools'
Football
Association

About the English Schools' Football Association

A Guide For Teachers

Be a Part of the Future of Schools' Football

The ESFA doesn't just provide a plethora of competitions and opportunities for school pupils, it is also a Members' Association and boasts a network of 44 County Schools' FAs and hundreds of District Schools' FAs across the country. This network of activity, run by thousands of volunteers, means the Association continues to provide District and County representative football opportunities in England, with a pathway for players to trial for the England U15 Schoolgirls' and England U18 Schoolboys' international squads.

The ESFA's newly created Reward & Recognition campaign has been created as a way to thank ESFA volunteers for their vital contribution to schools' football and also to act as a vehicle to promote the wonderful work they carry out and to inspire new volunteers to come on board.

There are opportunities for teachers and other prospective volunteers to get involved within their local Schools' Football Association, after which, there is a further opportunity to be elected to serve on the ESFA's Council. This means truly being a part of the future of schools' football, the direction it takes and the governance of the Association.

To find out more about how to get involved at a local level, you can contact your local County Schools' FA or email competitions@schoolsfa.com for more information.



E S F A



English
Schools'
Football
Association

About the English Schools' Football Association

A Guide For Teachers

Stay in touch



To talk to the ESFA on how you, your school and your pupils can get involved in our activity, you can email competitions@schoolsfa.com

Don't forget to follow @schoolsfootball on all social media platforms and you can check out our incredible National Finals, live draws and international fixtures via ESFA TV on YouTube



@SchoolsFootball



@SchoolsFootball



www.facebook.com/SchoolsFootball



www.youtube.com/ESFATV



@SchoolsFootball

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15

BENEFITS

of playing Schools' Football

English Schools' Football Association



1



Improves cognitive, social emotional & intellectual skills

2



Provides opportunities to develop positive relationships

3



Promotes a culture of inclusivity

4



Positive impact on pupil behaviour & truancy

5



Helps children to feel that they are part of a team

6



Can enhance academic achievement

7



Teaches respect

8



Encourages teamwork

9



Enhances positive decision making

10



Improves communication skills

11



Improves problem solving

12



Reduces anxiety & stress

13



Helps build resilience

14



Increases fitness and wellness

15



Provides a sense of pride to represent their school

ESFA Mission

Through the medium of association football the English Schools' FA will support young people, who are in education to develop:



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



@schoolsfootball



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English Schools' Football Association



ESFA TV



@schoolsfootball