**Policy for students with decelerated learning support (Version 3)**

Where a child is educated in a year below that of their age group in accordance with the decision of the school’s Governing Body then that decision should apply to the child's participation in all schools' football; save for international football. Specific consideration must be given to that player in the school's and Association’s risk assessment (RA) for that child to take part, and that the RA is shared with the opposition if they request it. The RA should identify risks if deceleration is a result of illness, injury or disability rather than any of the other reasons that a child may be educated outside of their age group.

If a child has been granted dispensation by The Football Association to play a year below that of their birth date, due to physical development, then the player shall be permitted to play down a year group in both inter-school and representative football, but not international football.

The headteacher must counter-sign any applications for pupils to play below their birth year group for permission to be granted by the ESFA. Such players must be registered with the ESFA on an annual basis.

Within international football, the ESFA will permit any dispensation agreed by SAFIB, but will not grant dispensation itself. The ESFA’s position on the granting of dispensation is not limited to international football; the ESFA will not make any decision on dispensation and instead only facilitates the decisions of others.

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