



Case Study by Neil Young

Girls Football

The FA & Barclays have an ambition to have equal access to football opportunities for Girls by 2024, through various initiatives the SSP are working with both primary and secondary schools, alongside community clubs to ensure we are working towards these targets.

Normanby Primary School signed up to a variety of initiatives with one proving the most successful yet, the FA's initiative of The Biggest Ever Girls Football Session on 9th June 2022.

Normanby offered every girl in the school from Foundation Stage to Year 6, 275 girls in total, the opportunity to take part in a football taster session on the 9th June.

Delivery

Every year group were given a time slot to take part in a 30min football taster session with every session tailored to that year group, the staff used their own knowledge and experience alongside some of the FA/Disney resources produced for the Disney Shooting Stars programme. The school promoted the day to parents, wider staff and children in the build up to the week so there was quite a lot of interest and excitement.

The girls took part in fun engaging lessons which focussed on a variety of skills, not only that but focussed on the girl's behaviour and attitude within the sessions too.



Impact

With 275 girls across the school accessing the taster sessions the school decided to offer a lunchtime club to see if the activities had sparked interest, the club received a staggering 123 girls signing up. Due to demand a rota had to be put in place, not only that but the school were able to offer an after-school option for KS2 girls to attend too.

Due to interest PE lead Mrs Bryson got in touch with the SSP and looked at putting in place exit routes for the girls to go to after school, MFC Foundation and Redcar Town were the two options based on age range and offer for girls to access. From this Mrs Bryson managed to get MFC Foundation to run sessions at the school as after school provision, by doing this the school now has a community pathway in place with a local delivery partner and some of the girls have moved onto club sessions and teams through the MFC Foundation partnership which is excellent.

Mrs Bryson said "There is a real buzz around girls' football at Normanby and the interest has gone through the roof, we are definitely achieving equal access within school and look forward to continuing to develop the game and hopefully be able to bring multiple teams to any SSP football opportunities in the future. For us at school this was not just a one-off football opportunity, this was the start of a journey, a movement in which girls will be given equal access to football but not only that will use football as a tool to drive physical activity and a lifelong journey in sport.

Away from football the girls have increased in confidence and are mixing with the boys far better at play and lunchtimes but also feel more confident in the classroom in terms of answering questions, speaking up in class, something which they have struggled with previously, this has been highlighted by the teaching staff too.