



Supporting Girls Football in Herefordshire

Girls Football Festival

As part of the 2022 Women's Euros Schools and Community week, we worked with Herefordshire FA and Hereford FC to host a Girls Football Festival at the Herefordshire FA. The day consisted of skills and group activities in the morning and then small sided games in the afternoon.

This was aimed at girls in years 7/8/9

In numbers

7 Schools	118 Female
118 Pupils	7 BAME
	5 SEND

“ Huge thank you for yesterday, our girls were buzzing on the bus journey home! ”

Impact - Feedback from a parent about the football festival

I am writing to thank you for giving my daughter the opportunity to attend the Football Festival which was run at Hereford FA.

My daughter used to regularly play for her local side and often played against girls a year older than her due to the two-yearly split in the leagues. Her team finally had the chance to be the older girls in the season commencing Sept 2019 and had qualified for their first County final (after 2 near misses in semi-finals, against teams made up of girls older than them) when Covid hit. The season was ended and the girls did not get to complete the Final at Hereford FC.

Post Covid she attempted to return to football, however, her team had disbanded with coaches leaving and other players not returning. She was left disillusioned and decided to pursue other interests.

Following attendance at the recent Football Festival, she came home buzzing about how the day had gone. She enjoyed all elements of the day, including developing her skills and the matches against other teams. She has also said she would like to start up year 8 girls' football at school.

I'm delighted that she has been able to reconnect with football and is looking forward to participating with school.

Please pass on my thanks to your team and all involved with the event.

Bishop of Bluecoat High School



Girls Football



Girls Football CPD

During the football festival, we had conversations with female teachers about their confidence to teach football. Many felt they would benefit from CPD which focused on understanding rules, knowledge and the skills needed to teach football to their students.

We approached Active Herefordshire and Worcestershire for funding to run a CPD session for secondary school teachers.

As a result of this, we were able to host a session which was delivered by the Hereford FC's Community Development Manager, tailored to the requests of the female teachers.

In addition to this, we were also able to purchase 2 sets of bibs for each school that attended so that female pupils had their own bibs and not the 'smelly ones' that the boys use!

In Numbers

5 Schools
13 Teachers

St Marys RC High School
Bishop of Bluecoat High School
Kingstone High School
Fairfield High School
Aylestone High School

Partners



Impact - Feedback from teachers about the football training

Do you feel more confident teaching football as a result of this training?



“ The drills and information provided was really useful and increased staff subjects knowledge - follow up session would be really useful with progressive drills ”

“ Somewhat - I thought the pace of content was fast and quite advanced compared to needing basics. ”

“ Yes, football was certainly a weak area for me ”

What impact do you think this training has had on pupils (as a whole or on individuals)?

“ It's improved the quality of football (not just girls) at the school with a number of female staff teaching boys groups. It has also increased staff confidence to deliver football on the curriculum ”

“ More activities and setting up tips to reduce lots of time. ”

“ My lessons are now more engaging for the less able and i have been able to challenge some of our more able pupils ”

What has changed in your school as a result of the training?

“ Girls football now features on the girls curriculum, girls football club is developing and we have entered a 7&8 / 9&10 girls football team into the newly formed Hereford girls' football league ”

“ All staff now teach football whereas it was previously only male staff ”

“ Football was offered for club and lessons anyway but it has provided more resources for teachers who I've shared out with. ”

Have you increased the amount of football for girls as a result of this training?

“ Number are steadily increasing but this will take time ”

“ The same - but with more a bit more confidence. ”

“ All females now have the opportunity to participate in football within curriculum time and further engage during extra curricular and fixtures ”