
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	5 November 2013
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/87/13/GB
Contact Officer:	Gillian Bond	Contact No:	714731
Subject:	Scottish FA School Of Football Port Glasgow Community Campus		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the progress made on the Scottish Football Association School of Football at Port Glasgow Community Campus.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Scottish Football Association (Scottish FA) currently funds 22 Schools of Football across Scotland. The programmes are funded via the Cashback for Communities initiative from funds obtained under the Proceeds of Crime Act. To date there has not been a School of Football in Inverclyde however the next stage of the development of the programme involves a roll out of the Scheme to a further 20 schools across Scotland including one in Inverclyde.
- 2.2 Information on the project is attached at Appendix 1. Essentially Schools of Football are an intervention project aimed at improving social and academic skills and school attendance in S1 and S2 through involvement in daily football coaching sessions. The coaching is financed by the SFA Cashback fund with no cost to the participating school.
- 2.3 Input from the school is required in terms of timetabling and the selection process involves interviews with pupils, parents, teachers and guidance staff from the cluster primaries. Selection is not primarily based on footballing ability as this is an intervention project rather than an elite player development project. A certain basic skill level together with enthusiasm are required however. The programme is aimed at both girls and boys.
- 2.4 The full selection process has been completed with 20 pupils accepting a place on the School of Football. The school timetable has been confirmed by both head teachers. The coach has been appointed in partnership with the Scottish FA. The official start date will coincide with both secondary schools moving to the joint campus.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Committee note the progress to date.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Scottish FA School of Football programme was launched in 2008 in an initial 6 schools across Scotland. This has since increased to 22 with the Scottish FA looking to roll the programme out to a further 20 this year including one secondary school in Inverclyde.
- 4.2 The project is fully funded by Scottish Government Cashback funding from the proceeds of crime. The initial pilot project was evaluated by the Scottish Government in 2010, [Scottish Government Evaluation](#). This evaluation found that delivery was very good and that the project was undoubtedly beneficial to participants but also found that there were some shortcomings in targeting. The findings of the initial evaluation have since informed the criteria for recruitment.
- 4.3 Primarily the programme is intended to have a positive impact on attendance and academic performance for those taking part. Recruitment from cluster primaries therefore focuses on boys and girls who will obtain the greatest benefit from the programme. Whilst this is not an elite performance programme however it clearly requires a high degree of enthusiasm for football and a certain minimum skill set and physical ability.
- 4.4 Recruitment for the first intake of S1 pupils to the School of Football started in May 2013 with a parent invite letter to every P7 in the five feeder primaries for St Stephen's High School and Port Glasgow High School. Technical trials were hosted at Parklea Community Stadium on 10th and 17th June with the involvement of Scottish FA and local selectors, 46 pupils attended. A parents' information evening was held at St Stephen's High School on 12th June, primary head teacher meetings were held with every school for feedback on potential candidates and finally, individual parents meetings with potential candidates. The final 20 pupils were selected and offered a place in July, with all 20 pupils accepting.
- 4.5 The Secondary School head teachers have liaised on the joint timetable for the School of Football, which is now confirmed. The timetable will be communicated to the parents and pupils after the October break.
- 4.6 The original timeline for the start of the School of Football has been modified slightly to take into account the change in date to the new shared campus. As such, the School of Football will start as soon as the move into the new campus is completed. In the meantime the intention is to organise weekly after school sessions. In partnership with the Scottish FA a coach has now been appointed who will lead on these sessions.
- 4.7 Once the start date is confirmed a press launch of the School of Football within Inverclyde will be completed in liaison with the Corporate Communication Team and the Scottish FA media team.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 That the Committee notes the progress made on the School of Football at Port Glasgow Community Campus in 2013.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

None. The programme is entirely funded by Cashback for Communities.

6.2 Legal Implications

None

6.3 Human Resources Implications

None

6.4 Equalities Implications

The programme does require a minimum level of physical ability from participants. In gender terms however it is equally open to boys and girls.

6.5 Repopulation Implications

None

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 SFA School of Football Brochure

SCHOOL OF FOOTBALL

Person 1st ... Player 2nd



SCHOOL OF FOOTBALL



www.scottishfa.co.uk



WELCOME

An outline of the programme and CashBack Initiative

Welcome, I am delighted to introduce you to our School of Football project. In 2008 the Scottish FA developed a partnership with the Scottish Government's Community Safety department to create 'CashBack for Communities' - a unique initiative that uses monies seized from criminals to fund free opportunities for physical activity across the country. The Scottish FA's School of Football project was born from this fund.

The project is first and foremost an initiative designed to develop young boys and girls' social and academic skills using the daily football coaching. It is this vehicle that will encourage the attributes needed in order to be a confident, respectful and well rounded individual in and outwith school.

The project started out in six schools across the country and as the feedback from the players, teachers, coaches and heads of education was so positive we have expanded to 16 schools in total now.

Imagine getting up every day for school knowing you will get a chance to lace up your boots, get a kick of the ball and be coached by a fully qualified Scottish FA coach. I know if I had that opportunity there would be quite a bit of dust on my snooze button!

The information in this booklet contains all you need to know about how the Schools of Football function within the education system and also includes a number of testimonials from parents, teachers and pupils.

The Scottish FA endeavour to make use of every resource we have and develop partnerships that will look after and nurture not only our elite players but every young person who has an interest in our national sport.

Best Wishes,
Jim Fleeting

DIRECTOR FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT
SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



WHAT IS THE SCHOOL OF FOOTBALL?

The School of Football is first and foremost a project aimed at developing the social and academic skills of young people during their first and second year of high school. We work on the basis that many skills developed while working in a football environment are transferable to school work and social situations.

Communication skills, following instructions, being creative and problem solving are skills either naturally acquired or developed when learning to play football, but can also be applied in classroom situations, in the playground, at home or in the street.

For many young children, football is an activity that captures their imagination and brings joy and happiness to their life. This is why through the School of Football project we use the sport to engage participants in school life as a whole.





HOW DOES IT WORK?

A highly qualified (accredited by Scottish FA) coach is employed for the daily delivery and coordination of each School of Football and is responsible for the daily delivery and coordination of the project. Coaching takes place during school time after an appropriate timetable is developed by the school. In most cases one subject is dropped to make space for football with support provided by staff to allow the pupil to remain up to date with their studies.

Pupils are made aware of the opportunity to be involved in the School of Football while still at primary school. If the pupil and parent or guardians are interested they are encouraged to apply and are then invited to take part in a selection process that comprises of the following:

- **Interviews with parents, pupil, teachers and guidance staff**
- **Technical selection days (playing ability)**

As mentioned before, the primary focus of the School of Football project is to develop the person as a whole, not just as a football player. However, in order for the coaching sessions to run smoothly and efficiently the ability of the player must be of a competent standard. Having said this, it is important to understand that it is not simply about selecting the most talented players. Football is more than just an elite or recreational sport, it is an activity that can motivate and inspire people to achieve more in their life.

The sessions delivered by the coach aim to assist each participant in the achievement of Curriculum for Excellence outcomes including an ability to communicate effectively, being responsible for actions, contributing to their own and others learning experiences and becoming more confident people. Football can deliver these outcomes and they will be reinforced daily to every participant for the two year duration they are in the project.

CONTENT


Each daily coaching session has four main components which focus on the development of:

- **Technical skills (passing, shooting, control, finishing etc)**
- **Tactical skills (defending, attacking, 4v4 etc)**
- **Physical skills (stamina, strength, speed, agility etc)**
- **Mental skills (mental strength, focus, discipline etc)**

The coach delivers these components over the course of the programme in a clear manner while also focusing on making the sessions enjoyable.

Whilst we focus on the development of the players' skills it is important to note that the School of Football is not a team and will never play as a team in a competition.

There is also a recovery session generally at the beginning of the week. This is to aid the body's healing process after a weekend of activity or games away from school.

A young boy with short brown hair is smiling broadly and celebrating on a soccer field. He is wearing a blue mesh soccer jersey over a dark blue long-sleeved shirt with white trim. His arms are raised in a celebratory gesture. The background is a blurred green field and blue sky.

“He is always up bright and early for school, wishing his holidays were over to get back to training!”

Parent

Here is an example of how the timetable may look:

	8.55- 9.50	9.50 – 10.40	10.40 – 10.55	10.55 – 11.50	11.50 – 12.40	12.40 – 13.40	13.40 – 14.35	14.35 – 15.30
Mon							SoF	
Tues				SoF				
Wed								SoF
Thurs		SoF						
Fri	SoF							

This is only an example and the creation of an appropriate timetable is developed by the school.

HOW A FRIDAY MAY LOOK

Based on the example timetable above pupils would arrive at registration ('homeroom') as normal. Instead of going to a regular class like other students they would make their way to the PE department to take part in the School of Football class.

They would change into the training clothes provided and work either on the pitch or the games hall (depending on weather) until 9.40am. After the session participants would change back into their school clothes and go on to their normal timetabled class.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In order to monitor the effectiveness of the programme we use the following:

- Skill tests
- Parent evenings
- Academic report cards
- Guidance reports
- Attendance figures (both at the class and at school)

The results are monitored regularly to provide support to the pupils' development from both a playing, academic and social point of view.

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

The two year programme is exciting and enjoyable, but demanding and requires focus so it is important that throughout the selection process you demonstrate that you:

- enjoy football
- have a reasonable ability level
- behave appropriately during coaching and meetings

We want to make it clear we hope to encourage young boys and girls who feel they would benefit from the project regardless of their previous academic ability or history of behaviour. A new start comes at high school and within the School of Football we aim to give you a helping hand no matter what your background.

FEEDBACK

"He is really enjoying his time with the Scottish FA and feels he is improving. The coach is working on his weaknesses as well as his skills. We feel this can only improve him."

"Her skill level is really improving, attitude and fitness are all coming on leaps and bounds."

"He has forged some great friendships in the School of Football, whilst still enjoying spending time with his old friends. I think the Scottish FA programme made it easier for him to settle in to secondary and he has made some really good friends."

"Her skills and fitness levels have improved over the past few months. However the most noticeable improvement has been in her confidence."

A marker of the progress made by the participants can be seen in the average attendances of the players against their year group. In every case the classes' average attendance is better than the year group. The table below shows a small selection from last year.

Attendance of 2010/11 Schools of Football pupils vs S1 average

	HS 1	HS 2	HS 3	HS 4	HS 5	HS 6
SoF Attendance	97	96	96	92	95	98
S1 Attendance	93	96	91	94	91	92

Head Teacher feedback

"Their academic progress has been steady throughout the year, with high levels of participation, discipline and behaviour in all subjects. The programme fits in well with the school's Curriculum for Excellence development work, which strives to produce high quality pupils and citizens. Every child in the squad loves football, and this programme is an ideal opportunity to develop so many other skills and personality traits."

Neil Macintosh – Head of Youth Development (Scottish FA)

"The School of Football was based upon a model in Falkirk designed to develop talented players. It is quite clear to see that this model can be tweaked and changed to suit people from different backgrounds. If football is the tool then the School of Football is definitely the vehicle that can lead these kids to a brighter future both personally and professionally."

CONTACTS

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“I think my confidence, fitness and skill level has improved”

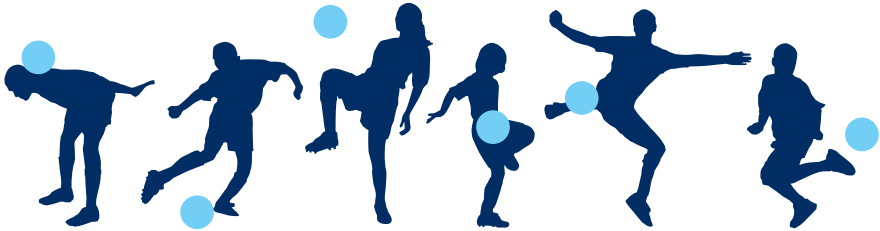
Player



SELECTION PROCEDURE

Each region has its own format for selection which will be communicated in an accompanying letter, however if you require any further information about the process or any other matter please do not hesitate to contact the Player & Coach Development Officer at your region.

We wish you all the very best at luck in your future high school life and ask that whatever way you can manage, make football a part of it!



LIVE IT PLAY IT LOVE IT



School of Football - Application Form 1

Surname

First Name(s)

Date of Birth

Name of Parent or Guardian (To whom correspondence should be sent)

Home Address

Postcode:

Tel (Day)

Mobile

E-Mail

School Attended

Club (if any)

Surname

Please list other sports you participate in:

Signed (Parent/Guardian)

Date

Please tear off page and return to your Teacher.

by:

FURTHER READING

www.scottishfa.co.uk/scottish_football.cfm?page=997

www.news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/8466556.stm

www.newbattle.org.uk/Departments/PE/sfa.html

www.scottishfa.net/scottish_fa_news.cfm?page=879&newsCategoryId=14&newsID=4620

www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/editor-s-picks-ignore/future-football-stars-score-top-marks-from-inspectors-1.999811

www.saintmirren-community.net/scottish-football-association/school-of-football/

www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/on-the-ball-school-football-gameplan-scores-a-winner-1.999724

www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2009/05/26/scotland-manager-george-burley-backs-project-to-use-cash-seized-from-criminals-to-fund-kids-football-86908-21390401/



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