



Parental Guidance

Bringing more 12–18 year olds back to the game

Over recent years The Football Association has become increasingly aware of the large numbers of young people dropping out of football. According to recent research conducted by The FA and Sport England over 135,000 teenagers (14–17 year olds) choose to stop playing football each year. This alarming trend is concerning not just for the overall development of football, but also importantly for the health and well-being of young people within this country.

The FA Vauxhall Youth Programme looks to try and address this challenge through employing a variety of methods and tactics that focuses on providing a fun and enjoyable football programme that encourages 12 to 18 year old boys and girls to get back into playing the game, and to develop sustainable exit routes that will ensure that these young people have the opportunity to continue playing the game in the long-term. This programme has been developed in line with the feedback and views of young people.

Football Mash Up – FAQ's Parents/Carers

My child is interested in joining Football Mash Up – can they take part?

- Football Mash Up sessions are aimed at 14 to 17 year old boys and girls who have either dropped out of football or are on the verge of doing so (they are not aimed at regular football players).
- Boys and girls can attend the same sessions but will play separately, with 14 and 15 year olds playing together for the first hour (e.g. 4–5pm); and 16 and 17 year olds participating for the second hour (e.g. 5–6pm) each week.

When does Football Mash Up take place?

- After-school Football Mash Up sessions are delivered by FA Vauxhall Youth Officers typically between 4–6pm in a football environment that can be used for Small Sided Football (normally a five-a-side football centre).
- Football Mash Up sessions will take place every week at the same time and place over a period of ten weeks during the school term.

What does Football Mash Up involve?

- An FA Vauxhall Youth Officer will deliver a fun and social session where young people will play a range of small sided games with the focus on enjoyment rather than it being too competitive!

Is there a cost to joining Football Mash Up?

- Participants will be charged £2 each week, and there will be a limit of 30 participants per one hour session. To encourage regular attendance for all ten weeks of the programme, participants will be charged £6 at the first session which includes a small deposit of £4.

How do we pay for Football Mash Up?

- Depending on your Football Mash Up venue, payments will be made to the centre directly or be collected by The FA Vauxhall Youth Officer on arrival at the session. A record of your payment will be made.

How does my child register for Football Mash Up?

- As a parent/carer you will be required to complete the FA Vauxhall Youth Programme Football Mash Up Parental Consent Form. A copy of the form can be downloaded from www.TheFA.com/FootballMashUp. Your child will also have to complete The FA Vauxhall Youth Programme Football Mash Up Player Commitment Form. All documents must be [signed and submitted] prior to joining Football Mash Up.

What happens at the end of Football Mash Up?

- At the end of the ten week programme, The FA Vauxhall Youth Officer will support your child to continue playing football through a variety of local options suited to their preference and enjoyment of football.

What happens if my child no longer wants to attend?

- There is no pressure to continue; the participant can pay individually for each session and should your child leave the session the £4 deposit will not be refunded.

How do I know my child's needs will be appropriately catered for?

- All Football Mash Up sessions are delivered by FA qualified coaches. The sessions are designed to meet needs of young people and the young people themselves will be involved in identifying what they enjoy within the sessions.



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THE FA VAUXHALL YOUTH PROGRAMME



Guidance for Teachers

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The FA Vauxhall Youth Programme, school coaching sessions – FAQ's for Teachers

Could our school benefit from support from The FA Vauxhall Youth Programme?

- The FA Vauxhall Youth Officers that will be delivering Football Mash Up will support local secondary schools and colleges by providing free football and Futsal coaching sessions during curriculum time or during lunch breaks on school sites.
- The FA Vauxhall Youth Programme looks to work with Football Futures young leaders aged 16 years or over to support Football Mash Up. Our FA Vauxhall Youth Officers will support and mentor six young people at each Football Mash Up location, helping them to understand more about football development, coaching and refereeing.

When would the coaching sessions take place?

- Coaching sessions would take place during afternoons (at any time between 12pm to 3:30pm) on those days of the week that The FA Vauxhall Youth Officer is in the area delivering Football Mash Up after school.

What would a typical FA Vauxhall Youth Programme, School Coaching Session involve?

- The FA Vauxhall Youth Programme, School Coaching Session can take two different forms depending on the interest of your school or college:

Football Mash Up Taster Sessions (14–17 years Boys and Girls): The FA Vauxhall Youth Officer runs a short-series of weekly football taster sessions aimed at encouraging young people at the school to attend Football Mash Up.

Football Development Sessions (12–18 years Boys and Girls): The FA Vauxhall Youth Football Officer will commit to attend the school/college for an extended period of time (maximum of 10 weeks) to support teachers in delivering weekly football coaching sessions in Futsal, 5v5, 9v9, 11v11.

What support does the school or college need to provide?

- The FA Vauxhall Youth Football Officer will require a suitable venue to deliver the coaching sessions. During the delivery of these sessions a teacher is requested to support the FA Vauxhall Youth Football Officer.

How does our school register for the FA Vauxhall Schools Football Coaching Programme?

- Talk to your local County FA about joining the FA Vauxhall Schools Football Coaching programme.
- Schools will then be required to complete and submit the FA Vauxhall Schools Football Coaching Programme registration form on the FA Vauxhall Youth Football Programme website [Insert website address] Subject to demand The FA will then select and contact those schools directly to organise all further details.

Are there any added benefits to joining the FA Vauxhall Schools Football Coaching Programme?

- Joining the programme will demonstrate that your school is committed to providing quality football opportunities for 14–17 year olds that are not currently playing football.
- The FA Vauxhall Youth Football Officer will work with your school to support the development of club-links with local Charter Standard Clubs.
- Support your PE teachers and staff with new ideas to structure your football sessions.

What safeguarding checks and training have the FA Vauxhall Youth Football Officers had?

- All FA Vauxhall Youth Football Officers have an accepted Enhanced CRB Check through The FA CRB Unit and which means that there is no known reason why they should not work with children and young people. Every FA Vauxhall Youth Football Officer has completed The FA's Safeguarding Children Workshop.
- During their induction FA Vauxhall Youth Football Officers will have had bespoke safeguarding training to look at the types of circumstances they may face in their role including working within a school environment and the process for reporting any welfare concerns to the school.



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By the end of the Safeguarding Children Workshop each FA Vauxhall Youth Football Officer will be able to:

- Explain why football is committed to safeguarding and protecting children and to promoting best practice
- Describe The FA's commitment to safeguarding children
- Describe what is meant by best practice and identify where they may want to develop and improve
- Recognise signs, indicators and forms of abuse and their impact on children
- Identify behaviour in football that would give them cause for concern
- Examine their attitudes and feelings in relation to concerns about poor practice and abuse
- Explain the action to take if they are concerned about the welfare of a young person
- Describe the action to take if a young person discloses he or she has been abused or is concerned about someone's behaviour towards them
- Explain why children find it difficult to tell someone about their concerns
- Describe the roles and responsibilities of agencies and organisations with safeguarding responsibilities and staff involved in child protection in football and how they should cooperate when concerns arise
- Find out more about The FA's safeguarding policy and procedures and the other support available



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