



Birmingham

Primary Schools' FA



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2023/24 District Football Season

What is district football?

Birmingham is divided into seven geographical regions (or districts). There are over 300 primary schools in Birmingham and each one is affiliated to one of its seven districts. The best players from one district, compete against the best from another, regionally and nationally.

Why play district football?

District football is schools' football and is governed by English Schools' FA, unlike grassroots Sunday/Saturday football which is regulated by the FA. Schools' football starts on the playground at dinner time where two teams of 36 players battle it out to be crowned champions of dinnertime and ends with international schoolboy/girl football.

Birmingham district football is the highest level of primary schools' football across the Second City. District football has a rich history and has been graced by countless future professional footballers, including international players, European Cup winners, Premier League footballers and even Atletico Madrid managers! The standard is incredibly high - district football is the highest level of grassroots football outside of academy football. It is a huge honour for pupils to be selected to represent their community and school.

All district games are played from a central hub - Castle Vale Stadium. This means there are no long-distance away games. Parents know where they need to be each Saturday morning and can plan other commitments accordingly.

Birmingham Primary Schools' FA prides ourselves on the fact that we make district football accessible to all. No child will ever be excluded on financial grounds. Therefore, there are no weekly or monthly subs to pay. This one-off £40 fee at the start of the season covers the cost of a player's kit and a contribution towards the overall cost of the 2023/24 season. On average, a district side will play approximately 20 games during a season – this equates to £1.25 per game when the cost of the kit has been subtracted. That's pretty good value for money!

All games are played in a safe, positive atmosphere, free from angry adults barking and yelling at each other and match officials. District football offers a great opportunity for players to improve and develop while playing competitive football.



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Seven Districts

Aston

Aston, Handsworth, Ladywood, Kingstanding, Lozells, Perry Barr and Soho.

East Birmingham

Acocks Green, Bordesley Green, Shard End, Sheldon, Stechford and Yardley.

Erdington and Saltley

Bromford, Erdington, Hodge Hill, Nechells, Saltley, Shard End, Washwood Heath.

Harborne

Bartley Green, Edgbaston, Harborne and Quinton.

Kings Norton

Bournville, Kings Norton, Longbridge, Northfield, Selly Oak and Weoley Castle.

South Birmingham

Billesley, Hall Green, Kings Heath, Moseley, South Yardley and Sparkbrook.

Sutton Coldfield

Boldmere, Four Oaks, Mere Green, New Hall, Sutton Coldfield and Sutton Vesey.



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Aston Villa Football Club

Birmingham district football is heavily supported by Aston Villa FC. As a club, Aston Villa FC provide Birmingham Primary Schools' FA with a level of support unrivalled across the country. No other professional football club provides their local schools' football association with the level of support Birmingham Primary Schools' FA receive from Aston Villa. This is something we are incredibly grateful for and proud of.

Aston Villa Football Club (AVFC) has a long and distinguished history of discovering talented young players and providing them with a platform to play football at the highest level. It goes without saying that of all the players who have graduated through the Youth Academy at AVFC, it is the players that live locally to the club who are the ones that really feel like 'One of our Own'.

Local players are the 'HEARTBEAT' of every professional football club and that is no different at AVFC. As a Club, we are committed to giving opportunities to local youngsters. This has been the message for over 100 years and will continue to be the message for the next 100 years and beyond.

The first step on this journey for every boy or girl dreaming of becoming a footballer is to play football for their school team before representing their district and beyond. Birmingham Primary Schools' Football Association (BPSFA) is a perfect place for boys and girls to play and have fun, to make new friends from all social backgrounds, to experience new challenges and to stimulate and maximise their potential for football, the UK's national sport.

The Academy at AVFC is very proud to be BPSFA's principal supporter.

The next generation of first team footballers both boys/men and girls/women will be identified right here in the playgrounds of schools located across the Midlands and we, AVFC, want to be involved in every step of that journey.

Whether it be using our facilities for training or matches, hosting finals at the first team training ground or having our Academy staff regularly watching BPSFA games, Aston Villa is committed to a long and healthy relationship that will benefit all the boys and girls who play schools' and district football. Therefore, we encourage you to get involved and give your best every game. Play hard but fair and remember the MOST important thing is to be part of a team and have fun with new friends.

Good luck to all the players, parents, teachers and coaches involved in the BPSFA for the season ahead. It promises to be an amazing time for all!

Steve Hopcroft - Head of Player Talent ID - Aston Villa Football Club



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Adult Code of Conduct – Parents and Guardians

All adults must adhere to the BPSFA code of conduct. Failure to do so may result in their child being banned from playing district football.

All coaches are volunteers. They all have busy lives. They all have a family of their own. They all have other things they could be doing on a Saturday morning. Yet they choose to voluntarily give up their time so that your child can play district football. You must never forget this. You must not take advantage of this. Under no circumstances will we tolerate adults being rude, aggressive or threatening to our coaches.

If you have an anger management issue and struggle to understand that 8 to 11-year old's playing football with their friends is not a matter of life or death, then please do not attend district football games.

Parents and spectators have a great influence on children's enjoyment and success in football. All children play football because they first and foremost love the game because IT'S FUN. It is important to remember that however good a child becomes at football it is vitally important to reinforce the message to parents and spectators that POSITIVE encouragement will contribute to:

- Children enjoying their football.
- A sense of personal achievement.
- Self-esteem.
- Improving the child's skill and technique.

Parents should ALWAYS:

- Be positive
- Encourage all children not just their own
- Avoid coaching the children during games
- Respect the referee's and other match officials' decisions
- Respect and abide by the coaches' team selection and decisions
- Stand in the designated supporters' area

Parents should NEVER:

- Use foul / abusive / threatening language towards match officials / team managers / players.



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Player Code of Conduct

All players must adhere to the BPSFA code of conduct. Failure to do so may result in them being banned from playing district football.

Players are the most important people in football, playing for the team is the most important part of the game along with having FUN.

A PLAYER SHOULD:

- Make every effort to develop their own ability, techniques and understanding of tactics.
- Give maximum effort.
- Always set a positive example to others when representing their school / district team.
- Avoid all forms of gamesmanship and time wasting.
- Never use foul or abusive language.
- Accept success and failure, victory and defeat, equally.
- Treat opponents with respect at all times, irrespective of the result of the game.
- Help injured players where possible.
- Control their temper, deliberately fouling or provoking an opponent is not acceptable.
- Co-operate with their coaches, team-mates and opponents – without them there would be no match.
- Accept all decisions of the match officials without protest.
- Avoid words or actions which may mislead the match officials.
- Show due respect towards match officials.



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Lamborghini

Lamborghini Birmingham are proud to be the main sponsor of Birmingham Primary School's FA. They've been involved with district football since 2016 when they first sponsored Erdington and Salthley Primary Schools' FA and have since extended their support to include all seven of Brum's districts. Their generosity and backing enables BPSFA to provide district players with a subsidised kit and adds an obvious touch of class to proceedings. Everyone at BPSFA wishes to extend a huge thanks to everyone at Lamborghini Birmingham, including Nick, Chameli, Robin and the late Steve, without whom, none of this would be possible.



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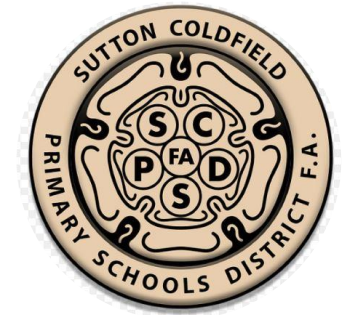
District Football Kit

Players must buy their district jersey from BPSFA at a cost of £15 – this is included in the £40 fee payable at the start of the season.

Shorts and socks must be provided by parents. These can be bought from Sports Direct or other sports clothing retailers. Details of shorts / socks colours can be found on the next page.

Players must arrive to games ready to play football, wearing their kit and football boots with moulded studs. Changing rooms will not be used on the morning of games.

Players must wear moulded studs. Under no circumstances will they be allowed to play wearing metal studs or blades.



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District Football Kit

Jersey (£15 from BPSFA)



Shorts	White	Black	Black	Navy Blue	White	White	Black
Socks	Sky Blue	Sky Blue	University Gold	Navy Blue	Green	Red	Black

Shorts and socks can be bought from:

- Sports Direct
- Shorts - <https://www.prosocceruk.co.uk/shorts-socks/plain-shorts-socks/pro-short>
- Socks - <https://www.prosocceruk.co.uk/cheap-football-kits/cheap-football-socks/pro-mini-sock>



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Cost of District Football

Birmingham Primary Schools' FA prides ourselves on the fact that we make district football accessible to all. No child will ever be excluded on financial grounds. Therefore, there are no weekly or monthly subs to pay. Other than a one-off £40 fee at the start of the season, district football is free. We believe this offers incredible value for money. The £40 covers the cost of a player's jersey (£15) and their contribution towards the overall cost of the season (£25). On average, a district side will play approximately 20 games during a season – this equates to £1.25 per game.

Registration Fee - £25.00

The BPSFA registration fee is paid at the beginning of the season. It is a one-off payment of £25.00. There are no weekly subs to pay throughout the season.

On average, a typical district football season costs BPSFA close to £15,000. The £25.00 registration fee is a vital source of income. Please ensure this is paid at the outset of the season.

Jersey - £15.00

All district players will be provided with a jersey at the beginning of the season. This costs £15.00. BPSFA does not make a profit on the sale of team jerseys.

Parents must then buy shorts and socks from a supplier of their choice. BPSFA recommends www.prosocceruk.co.uk.

When does this have to be paid?

Parents must pay £40 on the day that they buy their child's jersey.

This payment consists of a £25 registration fee and £15 for a district jersey.

If your son played district football last season and does not need a jersey, you only have to pay the £25 registration fee.



£40

- £25 contribution towards the 2023/24 season
- £15 jersey



Payable prior to the season.

The date and time of this will be shared via Heja.



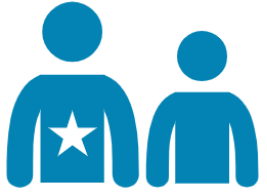
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Safeguarding



Reporting a Safeguarding Concern

- If an adult has a safeguarding concern about any child, they must report it to either Philip Hynan (Erdington and Saltley) or Chris Smith (Aston). Both will be made known to parents at the start of the season.



Social Media

- Parents are not permitted to share pictures containing other people's children on social media.
- BPSFA will only publish pictures on social media containing children whose parents have given permission to do so.



Adult Behaviour

- All adults are reminded about the need to follow the BPSFA Code of Conduct. Failure to do so will result in the adult and associated players being banned from district football.
- Under no circumstances must adults enter the field of play or be aggressive or threatening towards any player, official or coach.
- Any unsavory behaviour will automatically result in a ban from Vale Stadium.
- If you are one of those adults who can't control their temper, please stay away from district football. The coaches, players and officials do not want to spend a morning listening to you shout, moan and bark orders from the sideline. Please relax and enjoy the season!



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Communication – Heja



- Communication regarding fixtures and important BPSFA matters will be done via Heja.
- Parents must download Heja on their phone and join two different teams – the district side their child has been picked to represent and also the Birmingham Primary Schools' FA team.

Team Codes:

Birmingham Primary Schools' FA - **BS455442** – **ALL PARENTS MUST JOIN THIS GROUP**

Aston Under 10s- **WP928950**

Aston Under 11s - **QI243371**

East Birmingham Under 10s - **NN655656**

East Birmingham Under 11s - **RO642933**

Erdington and Saltley Under 10s - **IO900325**

Erdington and Saltley Under 11s – **UY934487**

Harborne Under 10s - **BG341121**

Harborne Under 11s - **SK293268**

Kings Norton Under 10s - **LS911928**

Kings Norton Under 11s - **EY351555**

South Birmingham Under 10s - **ME221993**

South Birmingham Under 11s - **GQ661211**

Sutton Coldfield Under 10s - **ST521034**

Sutton Coldfield Under 11s - **RW579457**



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Birmingham Primary Schools' FA Representative Teams



Once a season, the seven districts of Birmingham set aside their rivalries to form a united Birmingham side. This is the only time in the season that Birmingham Primary Schools' FA play as one team.

The under 11s battle it out with Leeds Schools' FA for the right to lift the Bernard Day Memorial Cup. Mr. Day is a BPSFA legend having coached Sutton Primary Schools' FA for many years before his untimely death in October 2014.

The under 10s lock horns with Barnsley Schools' FA.

Each squad contains players from all seven BPSFA districts.

Dates:

- Under 11s vs Leeds – October half-term
- Under 10s vs Barnsley – Easter holidays



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Competitions: League



Format

- 9-a-side
- Under 10s and under 11s teams play a series of friendly matches throughout September
- The results of these games are used to seed the 18 district teams into three different leagues
- Three leagues of six teams
- The top division will most likely consist of under 11s teams
- The middle division will mainly be under 11s teams with a few under 10s teams
- The third division will mainly be under 10s teams with a few under 11s teams
- Play each other once before each division is split into a top and bottom half and teams play those in their half for a second time



Under 10s Districts

1. Aston
2. East Birmingham
3. Erdington and Saltley
4. Harborne
5. Kings Norton
6. South Birmingham
7. Sutton Coldfield
8. Wolverhampton

Under 11s Districts

1. Aston
2. East Birmingham
3. Erdington and Saltley
4. Harborne
5. Kings Norton
6. North Shropshire
7. South Birmingham
8. Sutton Coldfield
9. Telford
10. Wolverhampton



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Competitions: Cups



BPSFA 7-a-side Championship

- September
- 7-a-side
- Each district is only permitted to enter one team
- Tournament



BPSFA Daniel Sturridge Cup

- January
- 7-a-side
- Each district is only permitted to enter one team
- Tournament



BPSFA Chris Smith Cup

- April
- 9-a-side
- Qualifying tournament – the top two teams progress to the final
- The final is staged on a separate day

West Midlands County Schools' FA 7-a-side Championship

- December
- 7-a-side
- Each district is only permitted to enter one team
- Tournament

West Midlands County Schools' FA Burton Shield

- March to May
- 9-a-side
- Knock-out cup

Divisional Cups

- March to April
- 9-a-side
- Knock-out cup
- Teams compete against those from their division



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How Parents Can Help



Sponsorship

- We always need to invest more money in the BPSFA district programme - we rarely have enough money!
- If you or a company/individual you know of would like to sponsor BPSFA, please get in touch



Be prompt!

- Confirm attendance to games promptly
- Arrive on time or early!



Be helpful!

- Help will always be welcomed
- If nothing else, we always need help setting up the pitches before games and tidying up after



Be reliable!

- Attend all games
- Football is played during the winter months – please don't pull out of games when it rains!



The Yellow Bucket of Truth

- Adults are asked to pay £1 when entering Vale Stadium before each game
- A yellow bucket will be placed at the entrance, in which £1 payments should be placed
- Please remember your £1 each week



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Everything You Need to Know on One Page!



All games are played at Castle Vale Stadium.



Adults and players must adhere to the BPSFA Code of Conduct.



Angry adults must stay away!



Generally, districts do not train as all district players also have commitments for their academy or grassroots team.



£40 to be paid before the start of the season:

- £25 season contribution
- £15 kit fee
- Date TBC via Heja



Players must arrive 30 minutes before their game kicks off.



Players and parents must be fully committed after accepting their place in a district team.



There is no guarantee that players will receive equal game time.



Birmingham Primary Schools' FA