

Waterford Sports Partnership Soccer for Girls



WHY?



The purpose of this programme is to promote female participation in sport for young girls in primary schools in Waterford City and also offer an opportunity for coaching experience for participants on the FAI ETB Coach Development Course - Project FUTSAL.

Each programme is 5 weeks duration. The FAI ETB Coach Development Course provides 8 student coaches for each school. Each session is 40 minutes duration (two classes at the one time) and 6 sessions are delivered throughout the day from 9am-12.30pm.

AIMS



- Increase physical activity levels amongst young girls in disadvantaged primary schools
- Offer an opportunity to play a sport to the schools that the school does not currently provide
- Encourage and support local Soccer clubs in setting up Soccer teams for girls and linking with feeder schools
- Promote and encourage young girls, particularly from disadvantaged areas, to become more involved in playing Sport
- Support the FAI ETB Coach Development Course - Project FUTSAL, in providing an opportunity for coaching experience.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Waterford LSP Youth Sports Development Officer held meetings with principals of the two schools taking part and with FAI Development Officers in Waterford City to discuss getting more young girls physically active. The partners were:

- Waterford Sports Partnership – Youth Sports Development Officer
- Waterford FAI Development Officers
- FAI ETB Coach Development Course (Project FUTSAL)
- Waterford School Completion Programme
- Mercy National Girls School (DEIS School)
- Presentation Girls National School (DEIS School)

NEXT STEPS

The FAI ETB Coach Development Course - Project FUTSAL and both schools have committed to sustaining this programme on an annual basis in both schools. Waterford LSP plan to target an additional two schools in 2019.

Waterford Sports Partnership is working with the FAI to explore the potential of establishing a soccer programme for 1st year girls in the Mercy and Presentation Secondary schools. This would be a follow-on for the girls when they transition from 6th class primary school to secondary schools.

This is an excellent activity. The girls really look forward to it each week.
– 5th Class Teacher - Mercy School

What a great idea. And great to have so many coaches and footballs available for the girls.
– Principal - Mercy National School

OUTCOMES

- 457 girls from two DEIS schools (8-12 years) took part in this programme
- Both schools entered two teams each into the SPAR FAI Primary School 5's Tournament in 2018. Neither school had entered teams into this tournament beforehand. Both schools are committed to entering teams again in 2019.
- Three Soccer clubs in Waterford have started soccer teams for age-grade girls (U-12's and U-10's)
- Club links have been established between two soccer clubs in Waterford City and the two primary schools.

457

GIRLS AGED 8-12 YEARS OF AGE TOOK PART IN THIS FIVE WEEK PROGRAMME IN TWO SCHOOLS IN WATERFORD

