



SCHOOLS FOOTBALL



Kingsbrook College



On the 28 April 2006 Kingsbrook Specialist College near Milton Keynes, England was awarded the FIFA RECOMMENDED

1 STAR Football Turf certificate.

This case study will highlight the impact that the FIFA RECOMMENDED 1 STAR Football Turf has made to the school for both the pupils, teachers and the schools community.

Learning through Football Turf

One of the key factors in “learning” is providing the correct environment for children to maximise their potential and develop as a person. The quality of the surface of the FIFA RECOMMENDED 1 STAR Football Turf creates that perfect environment. At the same time a quality



football surface makes it “fun and enjoyable” and through this the learning curve is accelerated. Without having the provision of the FIFA RECOMMENDED 1 STAR field the teachers saw a lack of motivation, enthusiasm and enjoyment for beautiful game from their pupils. This was mainly because the natural grass pitches the majority of the year were unplayable and football was just not fun.

The excellent playing surface and durability of the FIFA RECOMMENDED 1 STAR football turf, the teachers are able to make more provision for football because it is not affected by weather. Therefore “cancelled lessons for outdoor Physical education time” is something of the past. The FIFA RECOMMENDED 1 STAR has changed the curriculum pattern overnight and this has been very positive for the schools future. Phil Cousins, Head of Physical Education at Kingsbrook, provides a useful insight to what the FIFA RECOMMENDED 1 STAR playing surface offers from a teaching perspective. “It’s a massive motivation tool, if they could, the kids would be on the

surface all the time. Practice at lunchtimes has really taken off, they are rushing down from the changing rooms to get down to the surface. We have 80 students in our year nine group. I’m getting 50 to 60 out at football practice where a year ago on the grass, on a muddy, horrible winter’s day, I’d get 15 to 20 at most”.

Very Proud of the pitch

As a Business and Enterprise College the students were part of the decision making process and strategy on the impact and benefits of a football turf field. The pupils being part of the process from start to finish meant that they were very proud when the FIFA RECOMMENDED football turf was finally installed. Consequently the pupils take enormous pride when playing on the surface. It is very true to say that the FIFA RECOMMENDED 1 STAR Football Turf is a focus for quality at the school. Furthermore taking the field as a vehicle for quality has built upon the ethos of the school of quality education. Revenue and a sustainable facility are the cornerstones





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to attract multiple funding streams, but the driver is of the course the quality opportunity it creates for children.

Increasing girls participation in football

Again, how the girls approach football has positively changed. Once there was the reluctance because of the poor quality grass fields. The look and feel of the football turf field is far more engaging to play football and as some of the girls said: "Does not hurt you". Furthermore the Headteacher reiterates this view: "The pupils are in control, the surface is far truer".

The Football Association

The Football Association also have a positive view on what a FIFA RECOMMENDED 1 STAR Football Turf can do for the community. Steve Williams, Head of Facilities for the Football Association says: "The benefits are better skills, better opportunities to play the game to a higher level and bringing a better quality of player through for the Football Association in years to come".

A pitch for the community

The FIFA RECOMMENDED 1 STAR Football Turf is very much a pitch for the

community and very much so – the wider community. Firstly more extra curricular football activities are on offer for the pupils. This helps the parents as they know they are in a safe and secure environment and participating in football rather than potentially doing nothing after school. During weekdays the FIFA RECOMMENDED Football Turf is blocked booked every evening between 6-10. For example the durability and excellent playing conditions of a FIFA RECOMMENDED 1 STAR Football Turf has created 5 separate leagues every week. In school holidays this has meant

soccer schools for children and adult participation in the evening.

Health benefits

A strategic investment in a quality surface "FIFA RECOMMENDED 1 STAR Football Turf" has engaged the school pupils and the wider community to be more active and participate more in football. The long term benefits is that this creates a healthier, more active community that on a local level would help reduce obesity, heart disease and illness because football is healthy for body, mind and soul. If this model could be replicated nationally and internationally this would tackle some of the health concerns in many countries and potentially radical change could occur.

The provision of a quality Football Turf surface has made a radical but positive change to the school. More football participation, more fun for the children, better options for the teachers and engaging the school in the wider community.

