

#LETGIRLSPLAY

Barclays Game Changers

Guidance for Schools

Barclays Game Changers is an exciting new initiative, part of the wider Barclays Girls' Football School Partnerships offer.

Do you have a future Barclays Game Changer in your school?

We are looking for you to nominate a potential student who you believe could take on the role within your wider Barclays Girls' Football School Partnership (BGFSP), not just your school.

Training will be coordinated in cluster groups within the region and take place online. The Barclays Game Changer training will commence before Easter so the role will take full effect over the summer term and carry over into the 2022/23 academic year.

With just one Barclays Game Changer in each BGFSP we are looking for that special young person, with a passion for football and/or sport, really wanting girls to have the same opportunities to play football in schools as boys, and a desire to help bring about that change.

A commitment to support

If the young person you nominate is successful in being chosen you will play a crucial role in ensuring that the young person is supported with key communication being directed through you (or another nominated staff member at your school). Please read all the information in this guidance document before completing the nomination form. There is also [safeguarding guidance](#) provided which you will be expected to read and adhere to.

If you have any questions about the information in this pack, please contact your Barclays Girls' Football School Partnership Strategic Lead.

What are Barclays Game Changers?

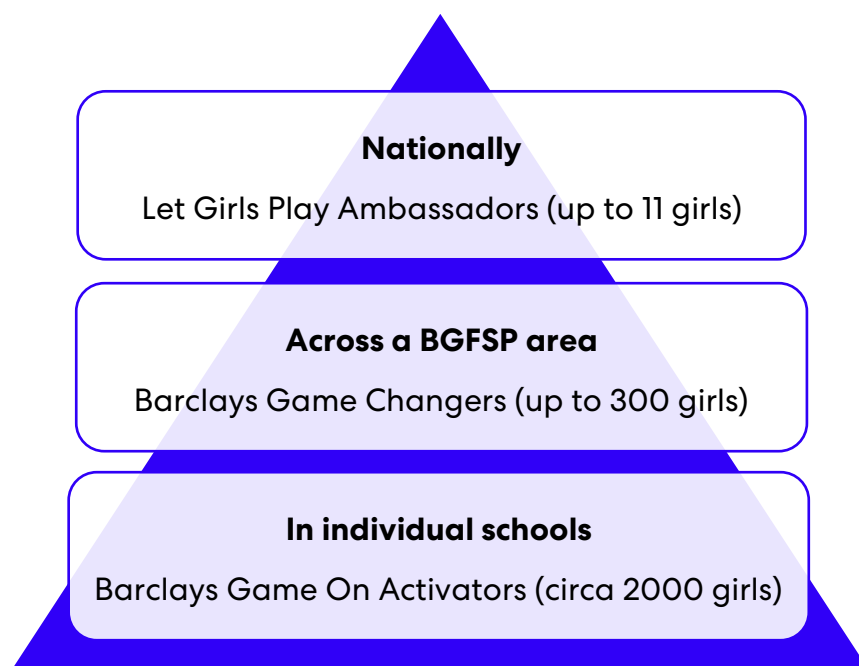
As part of the broader #LetGirlsPlay campaign, we are on the lookout for girls aged 12-16 who are passionate about women's and girls' football. Known as Barclays Game Changers, a team of up to 300 young ambassadors across England will be formed who believe that all girls should have the same opportunities to play football at school as boys do.

Using their passion for equal access – which may be based on their own footballing journey - we want our Barclays Game Changers to help inspire, engage and empower other girls, as well as parents, teachers and key decision makers, to want to make a positive change for girls' football.

A community of girls

Barclays Game Changers will be part of a wider community of young women and girls across England supporting #LetGirlsPlay. Its aim? To give girls the same opportunities that boys currently have to play football in school.

You can see from the diagram there are a number of Let Girls Play Ambassadors supporting at a national level, as well as a growing number of Barclays Game On Activators who advocate for and deliver football for girls in their own schools. The Barclays Game Changers will play a pivotal role in supporting and advocating the work across the collective of schools in a Barclays Girls' Football School Partnership (BGFSP). N.B you don't need to have been a Barclays Game On Activator to be a Barclays Game Changer.



The role of a Barclays Game Changer

Ultimately the aim of the Barclays Game Changer role is to support Barclays and The FA in inspiring and influencing schools, parents, teachers and pupils to get behind the movement and help achieve the ambition of ensuring all girls have the same opportunities to play football in schools as boys!

We want the role to be as flexible as possible to allow young people to shape it for themselves, and all tasks undertaken will be supported by the Barclays Girls' Football School Partnership (BGFSP) strategic lead.

There are three key areas of work that the Barclays Game Changers will be committed to:

1. Representing the voice of young people
2. Sharing their own story
3. Raising the profile of #LetGirlsPlay

We expect the time commitment to be approx. 4 - 5 days, including training, over the next year. It is not expected that these will be whole days and we don't expect the time to be spent out of lessons unless there is a very specific need which is agreed by the school and parents/guardians. The role will cross over into the next academic year and the hope is that at least three different mini projects/tasks/appearances will be completed in this time.

A template action plan agreement will be provided that must be completed and signed by the BGFSP Strategic Lead, the school contact, Barclays Game Changer and their parent/guardian outlining the commitment and consenting to the agreed activities.

Game Changer 1: Representing the voice of young people

The first aim for our Barclays Game Changers is that they will be able to truly represent the voice of the young people within their network and utilise this powerful insight to influence key decision-makers.

To do this, they may decide to undertake a survey to understand the football experiences of girls within their school or wider BGFSP and then present this insight back to the school's board of governors or headteacher, including recommendations on how to improve the girls' experiences.

Alternatively, they may aim to connect with the Barclays Game On Activators within their BGFSP area to gain feedback on the experiences of girls across the whole network. This could then be presented at regional conferences, strategy groups, steering groups or networking events.

Game Changer 2: Sharing their own story

We want the Barclays Game Changers to utilise and share their own football journey to show why #LetGirlsPlay is so vital.

This could be through delivering a talk in their school assembly to share their experiences with their peers or attending and presenting at a regional PE conference or networking event to raise the profile amongst a range of teachers and schools.

They could also prepare a news article or case study to share with their Barclays Girls' Football School Partnership Network on their journey through football, or work with the Youth Sport Trust and other Barclays Game Changers from across England to create national content.

Game Changer 3: Raise the profile of #LetGirlsPlay

We need as many schools, teachers, parents and pupils to be aware of and see the importance of equal access to girls' football, and Barclays Game Changers can play a key role in spreading this message.

This could be through something as simple as putting up posters within their school or working with their teachers to send home a message to all parents about the importance of equal access to football for girls.

They could also work with their peers to run taster sessions for girls' football in their schools or organise a #LetGirlsPlay football festival for schools in the local area. Alternatively, they could run a competition across their Barclays Girls' Football School Partnership to raise the profile.

Recruitment of Barclays Game Changers

We are recruiting our first ever cohort of Barclays Game Changers in 2022. This role gives an incredible opportunity for personal development, and we will be providing each Barclays Game Changer with training and support. The role is voluntary.

Our aim is to recruit a Barclays Game Changer from every Barclays Girls' Football School Partnership across England to represent, advocate and support the brilliant work within these networks.

Schools will be asked to nominate any young person(s) who meets the criteria and who they believe would make a real difference, be committed and benefit from the opportunity.

Every young person has their own strengths and passions, and we want to work with them, alongside their Barclays Girls' Football School Partnership Strategic Lead to shape the role, identifying how each Barclays Game Changer can support the movement best and where they feel they can make the biggest impact.

Diversity and representation

It is important that the young people nominated to take on the role of a Barclays Game Changer reflect our diverse society and we would encourage you to consider who might be that voice for inclusion and diversity. Our overarching vision is to ensure every girl has access to football in school by 2024, and we do mean **every** girl so if you have a young person with a disability, or from an ethnically diverse community, or someone you know has been excluded from playing football or had very little opportunity but who you believe if given a voice through this programme really could change the path for other girls to access football please do give this consideration.

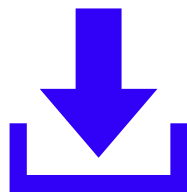
Young people not selected for the role

We understand that with any nomination process there will be disappointment for those not selected. We chose to request nominations from teachers rather than applications from young people so it could be a positive tool for you, as a teacher, to recognise, celebrate and promote your confidence and belief in a young person via the nomination process. How you manage that process and the communication is on your own merit, however, to support this we will provide you with a downloadable certificate of nomination which can be presented as you see best to those nominated but unsuccessful in gaining the role and we really would encourage you to use this as an opportunity to share with that young person the reasons why you nominated them.

Benefits of being a Barclays Game Changer

As well as the chance to be a voice in the #LetGirlsPlay campaign, every Barclays Game Changer will receive:

- A welcome pack – including a Barclays Game Changer hoodie
- An exciting online training programme delivered by Youth Sport Trust Athlete Mentors to share more about #LetGirlsPlay, what we want to achieve and why, with a focus on how to use your own experiences and journey to tell a story
- A promotional toolkit for the Barclays Game Changer to use and share in schools – including printed posters
- The opportunity to develop leadership and ambassadorial skills as well as self-confidence and public speaking
- Regular support and check-ins from the teacher who nominated the young person throughout their time as a Barclays Game Changer (as a minimum we expect the nominated teacher to ensure that the young person is on track and comfortable with what they have been asked to do in their action plan, and that they can share enthusiasm as well as any concerns when needed)
- Opportunity to receive exciting thank you and recognition prizes on a monthly basis for the great work.



[Download nomination form](#)