



**Hyndburn and Ribble Valley District
Schools Football Association**
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RE: Under 11 Boys

Dear Parent and Pupil,

I am delighted, following your successful nomination from your primary schools to invite you to the Hyndburn and Ribble Valley District Schools Association football team trials; for the academic year 2026-27. Being nominated is a huge achievement and you should be very proud!

The trial will be primarily led by Mr David Allen, a qualified coach and experienced District Schools lead of a number of years and will be supported by other qualified coaches and school teachers. The coaching team will observe those pupils from Hyndburn Schools on Friday 24th April and the Ribble Valley schools on Friday 1st May. They will notify parents and pupils of their selection in the composite squad using the contact details you provide on the MS Form attached below. We will notify those unsuccessful at the same time. Unfortunately, we are unlikely to be in a position to offer feedback but feel assured that the coaching team invest a considerable amount of time in scouting and watching both school and grass roots games throughout the year and every season additional players are invited into the group on occasions.

Playing for the Hyndburn and Ribble Valley School District is a huge achievement. In the last 3 years we have normalised winning competitions and reaching the latter stages of national cups. At the time of writing our Under 15 girls are national champions and our Under 14 boys, Under 15 girls and Under 15 boys teams are planning for finals this year in the Midlands; an achievement no other association in England can boast. Whilst we will formally determine our competition entries in our AGM, its highly likely that the team will have the opportunity to play in the Lancashire Cup, National Cup and against high profile North-West districts; as well as professional academy groups. Coaches will endeavour to be fair and avoid clashes with grass roots matches but players and parents are expected to make a commitment to this team upon confirming their place, if selected. Further guidance on the priority of football matches can be found in the ESFA handbook and with the FA, should parents be presented with an unavoidable clash.

Schools have been notified of the criteria for selection and the rationale for this is to ensure that the level children are asked to play and trial at is challenging, but not unfair and that it is equivalent to the levels you would come to expect from playing against rival districts in Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester and Preston for example.

The criteria shared with schools is below for transparency:

- Behaviour and conduct which is befitting with the image of schools in Hyndburn and Ribble Valley. School behaviour, in classrooms as much as the football pitch, is a major determining factor in being allowed to represent our area. This behaviour must be sustained when with the group, regardless of it being away from the school day.
- Pupils can be from any gender and none, although there is a specific girl's group, with trials in September. It is our preference that girls should trial for the girl's group to enable them to be as competitive as possible. Any questions to this connection should be shared with the chair prior to attending the trials.
- Pupils must be in a Hyndburn and Ribble Valley School and must be in either Year 5 or 6 on 1st September 2025.
- Only pupils nominated by primary schools will be permitted to trial. Please do not attend unless nominated as we will need to turn pupils and parents away.
- Pupils should play at a competitive level of football. This may be for the school team, grass roots or an academy. Academy players **are** allowed to play, there is no limit or quota and the districts we play against will certainly contain academy players from all professional categories.

The first trial is for pupils from Hyndburn schools and will take place on **Friday 24th April 2026** and will begin promptly at 16:00 and finish at 18:00. The second trial is for pupils from Ribble Valley schools and will take place on **Friday 1st May 2026**. Pupils are reminded to bring shinpads, a drink (preferably water and not fizzy) and appropriate footwear (no metal studs, blades or flat trainers – round or soft studs or advised). There is no mandate with regards kit colours or the requirement to wear school uniform. Failure to meet these requirements will mean your child is unable to partake in the trial, so please give this special consideration.

To secure your place on this trial and enable the coaching team to plan the session appropriately we require the following MS Form (Click here: [Hyndburn and Ribble Valley District Schools Trial Information – Fill in form](#)) to be completed and submitted no later than **Friday 17th April 2025**. If your availability changes between the 17th and the trial/s please let us know.

Well done on your nomination and I wish you all the best during the trial on 4th July!

Kind regards,

Mr David Allen
Hyndburn and Ribble Valley District Schools Chairperson