



FOOTBALL  
MAKES OUR  
SHARED  
HISTORY



June 2023

Author: CFA

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# Football Makes Our Shared History

Children's Football Alliance Report.

July 2023

Supported by



# FOOTBALL MAKES OUR SHARED HISTORY, 2023

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

June 30, 2023

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** The Executive Summary presents an overview of the main findings from our analysis with project participants, project partners and project volunteers in the Lottery Heritage funded FMOSH project. Start Date 04/12/21 End date 30/06/23. The FMOSH report has been designed and implemented by The Children's Football Alliance (CFA).

### Project Background and Description

The CFA produced 4 pilot projects 2020: Cregagh Green, Belfast, Ashford Girls School, Belfast, Enniskillen Royal Grammar School, County Fermanagh and North Coast integrated College, County Londonderry; the projects established the evidence needed for FMOSH. Regarding funding, The Heritage Lottery Fund, NI, was considered a good fit.

### Achieved Aims

Through FMOSH there are now 16 peace pitches across the 6 counties of Northern Ireland. It is estimated that over 20,000 young people connected with FMOSH through playing on their respective school / community peace pitch. FMOSH achieved diversity through representation. Mixed gender, mixed ability and special needs, were championed throughout the project researchers' work and visible intergenerational representation was witnessed at all exhibitions and twinning events.

### Outcomes Achieved

The outcomes achieved are as follows:

- Engaged communities within communities: special needs, ethnic minorities, gender equality and intergenerational relationships.
- A shared heritage is better understood with respect for commonality.
- Competent in shared and self-learning. Researchers took ownership to discover the power of play.
- Improved interpersonal, intercultural, and social skills and a heightened awareness of the role of sport.
- Ability to express ideas through cross-community communication and celebrate community cohesion through play.
- Increased understanding of the value of historical play.
- Increased confidence in team building and equality, whilst researching living history and organizing events.

### Impact

The outcomes achieved are as follows:

Participants dissemination; ongoing shared heritage influence: sharing experiences, at home, at school and in their community • Health and well-being; activities providing strong mental health benefits. • Multi-agency benefits: sharing best practice and identifying areas for further development. • FMOSH Legacy; 16 peace pitches pledged to annually celebrate peace through play on National and International dates relative to the community. • Delivery partners capitalizing on experience – through multi-cultural identity. Project partners identify social return on investment.

### Conclusion

Participants volunteered to take part; FMOSH was over-subscribed, unfortunately, there were not enough places to meet demand. FMOSH continues to reach-out to young and older people; there is clear support for the recognition for the importance of play. Social inclusion is truly the major return on investment. The report contains the energy, passion and focus from all involved, to create Peace Makers for the Future. In a time where the commonality of play is often overlooked the legacy of FMOSH is inspiring and kick-starting, peace games, tournaments and events, across NI.

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## Introduction

Children's Football Alliance (CFA) is a coalition of agencies and organisations that safeguard and advance the rights of children in all forms of play. As a humanistic voice and advocate for children, the CFA also acts as a focal point and network for those individuals and organisations seeking sustainable partnerships, information, formal and non-formal education and/or training on child-centred approaches and children's rights in play. As the CFA's network continues to grow, the demand for peace education through football for fun continues to grow. Ultimately, The CFA's mission to protect childhood through play remains the core value of all its projects.

Football Makes Our Shared History (FMOSH) was inspired by the CFA's work with Euroclio 'Football Makes History', 2019 <sup>(1)</sup>. FMOSH focused on the essence of play and how all forms of football (Soccer, GAA, Rugby, Basketball, Netball, Hockey, etc) have historically brought communities together and contributed to the landscape of a contemporary Northern Ireland. The most important aspect of FMOSH is the fact that young people performed the research and were empowered to organise their project from beginning, middle and end.

FMOSH lent itself to a cross-curricular approach. Although the subject matter was focused on sport, the project encouraged participants (young researchers) to explore the historical essence of play which in some people's experiences eventually morphs into sport.

In the year of the 2022 Soccer World Cup, FMOSH brought together a wide range of communities to explore and research a recorded, physical, oral and living history of play. Heritage through community games – focused on women, ethnic minorities, children and special needs. FMOSH chimed with a generation of young people that took ownership of the project and celebrated a shared heritage.

It is important to note that the participants carved and shaped FMOSH's direction. As the report highlights with the inclusion of a Peace Ring at Building Bridges Community Boxing Club, on the interface of Tigers Bay and Antrim Road, Belfast.

Introducing FMOSH has been a challenge in every area of gaining support. The report touches on those hurdles that the researchers and participants jumped with gusto.



Building Bridges Community Boxing Club

### **Background / Brief history**

The CFA piloted 4 projects in Northern Ireland (2016 - 2019): Ashford Girls School, Belfast, Cregagh Green Community Centre, Belfast (supported by Belfast City Council). North Coast Integrated College, Coleraine, and Enniskillen Royal Grammar School, Enniskillen. The projects were over-subscribed. Along with previous HLF funded projects Peace Fields Project (OH 14 08071), Football and Peace Project (OH 12 10205), they continue to benefit from their all-inclusive annual peace games which commemorate wars (Remembrance Day) and celebrate peace (International Day of Peace). Regarding FMOSH, The CFA continue to be approached by schools, clubs and youth organisations now across the Island of Ireland. There was a clear need for FMOSH where communities have embraced the game at many different levels throughout years of conflict and peace. In the light of the NI Centenary, 2022 World Cup and current underlying communal tensions, FMOSH project conveyed a feel-good factor, championing young people and acknowledging their importance in a decade of centenaries and methodology for engaging with their challenging heritage. The need for an outreach heritage project through play was well respected amongst a plethora education authority and the custodians of NI sports. There was evidence from communities willing to embrace FMOSH; there was volunteers willing to help steer the project into communities within communities. The lack of local heritage knowledge that represents ethnic minorities, special needs and LGBTIQ+ communities, across young and older people, was discussed amongst all interested project partners. This highlighted the need at grass roots level. Timing was perfect! In other words, the 2022 World Cup helped elevate the project into an arena that juxtaposed the professional game with the essence of the game – at grass roots level. All interested parties were keen to get involved.



Harry Gregg Foundation, Coleraine, County Londonderry. Girls football training on their new peace pitch. Over 3000 young people play at Coleraine University 5 days a week.

### Outcomes

- Through the role of football, sport and games for fun, all participants increased their appreciation of the importance of play in their communities, at home and at school. They increased their ability to articulate and communicate ideas, feelings and opinions effectively with their peers during research and planning. Researchers engaged communities within communities: special needs, ethnic minorities, gender equality and intergenerational relationships. Each Project Hub was represented by 50% male and 50% female researchers. They directly and indirectly engaged with young BME, LGBTIQ+, special needs and the disabled participants. They did this through their FMOSH twinning events. The events proved successful with extended members of the respective communities joining in and supporting the project's legacy for twinning designated areas of play with Flanders Peace Field. The inter-generational aspect was clearly on display and worked to great effect at the project's celebration day.
- Heritage is recognised as a key element in community cohesion. It improved researchers' relationships at home, at school, in the community and across the divides. Researchers and participants benefitted from the FMOSH experience; heritage is now a topic of consideration in terms of shared learning. The cross-curricular activities added valuable material to the Hubs' project web pages. A virtual celebration to all sports men, women and children in the community, accessible for future generations immortalised online. FMOSH resources and tool kits, provided formal and non-formal educators, with heritage information which was utilised in workshops and historical trips to national stadiums.
- Aided by guided discovery, researchers explored conflict resolution through workshops, gaining social and civic awareness and an understanding of the importance of sportsmanship, friendship and mindfulness. The living history of play was primarily sourced from researchers' interviews with their parents, teachers and local sports facilitators. The topic of intervention through play was discussed as well as reconciliation through the usage of their peace pitches. The further development of social skills and increased confidence in interpersonal skills enabled participants to discuss a wide range of topics that lend themselves to FMOSH.
- Ability to express ideas through cross-community communication and celebrate community cohesion, strengthened intergenerational relationships. Older people felt a reconnection with youth and play. Researchers and participants, contextualised stories from the past with their experiences in the present. This aspect strengthened emotional well-being for many people. The FMOSH exhibitions celebrated the respective communities' shared heritage to great effect.
- Increased understanding of the value of historical play, tolerance and humanitarianism. The shared heritage proved to be the catalyst for organising the FMOSH peace pitch twinning events. Supporting a better physical health inspired by a heritage project that left a peace pitch in every county has been celebrated at home, in the community and at Stormont.



- Many participants experienced a range of sporting activities for the first time. Games documented in the First World War: soccer, GAA, rugby and cricket, they discovered through play – games without frontiers; a universal language for peace. A history of sport that maintains an appreciation of commonality. This improved interpersonal, intercultural, and social skills and a heightened the awareness of the universal role of sport.
- Increased confidence in team building and equality, whilst organizing events. 16 twinned peace pitches across NI created a modern-day legacy for peace through play. Researchers and participants respect memorials to war but articulated the need for monuments for peace when they argued the FMOSH outcome at Queens University Belfast.



Football Makes Our Shared History Lecture given by Professor Dominic Bryan at Queens University Belfast. The debate featured a quest panel: Prof Dominic Bryan, QUB, Gail Redmond, Irish Football Association, Helen McGhee, Ulster Rugby, Brian Caskey, Limestone United and Tim Wareing, TW Braga.

***'Football Makes Our Shared History is a unique and powerful venture. By using the fun and the friendship acquired through sport, it changes the future of young people's lives and of wider society too'*** Professor Richard English.

***'I have never been to a university. The tour of the building after the lecture was amazing.'*** Pupil, Drumragh College, County Tyrone.

***'I was impressed with the pupils' debating skills. The evidence they presented for celebrating peace through FMOSH was compelling and difficult to argue against.'*** Chris Porter, Teacher, Oakgrove Integrated College, County Londonderry.



## Recruitment

**COUNTY ANTRIM: Building Bridges Community Boxing Club**, Duncairn Interface, Belfast, represented a multi-cultural community and expressed a passion for promoting peace through sports. The club facilitate games for communities withing communities for young people from BME, the Antrim Road and Tigers Bay. **Limestone United Football Club**, North Belfast, facilitate football for fun for young boys and girls from Catholic and Protestant communities. In terms of cross-community equality their enthusiasm to promote FMOSH was essential. **Lough View Integrated Primary and Nursery School**, Belfast, added valuable input too FMOSH from the perspective of representation. Their inclusion provided young voices directly connected to play. **Peace Players**, Belfast, provided diversity through sport. Peace Players online FMOSH presence gave some context to inclusivity and the importance of playing for peace.

**COUNTY ARMAGH: St Paul's High School**, Bessbrook, known for GAA sports with a strong community tie with local clubs. The first peace pitch in Armagh. The school's sporting heritage enabled participants to join in on their FMOSH popular sports day.

**COUNTY DOWN: Bridge Integrated Primary School**, Banbridge, fosters a passion for learning through play. The school's extended community were keen to promote FMOSH. **Cedar Integrated Primary School**, Crossgar, displayed a strong history of sports and working with community play networks. **Killyleagh Integrated Primary School**, Downpatrick, illustrated their desire to be part of FMOSH by presenting their long-term community links to local sports clubs. **New Bridge Integrated College**, Banbridge, facilitate a wide range of sports. The school wanted FMOSH to be a part of the new sports facilities and playing fields.

**COUNTY FERMANAGH: Enniskillen Royal Grammar School**, Enniskillen, have a deep history in the sport of Rugby. The school have long prompted peace through play. They added an important dimension to the FMOSH project.

**COUNTY LONDONDERRY: Foyle Down Syndrome Trust**, Derry-Londonderry, represented the importance of inclusion. Their devotion to play based learning added a value to FMOSH. **Harry Gregg Foundation**, Coleraine, is one of the biggest facilitators of children's football in NI. The foundation's connection with professional football through the legend, Harry Gregg, helped FMOSH raise its profile. **Magherafelt High School**, Magherafelt, have nurtured professional female footballers and sportsman in a long history of community sport. The school presented a successful history department that was keen to utilise cross-curricular learning to develop their shared heritage message of peace through play. **Oakgrove Integrated Community College**, Derry-Londonderry, wanted FMOSH to promote their college's values for a shared heritage through sport. The College were keen to support annual activities to champion peace through play. **Sperrin Integrated College**, Magherafelt, regard equality in sport high on their college's curriculum. The number of young female soccer, rugby and GAA teams, added value to FMOSH.

**COUNTY TYRONE, Drumragh Integrated College**, Omagh, is a large college with extensive reach across the county. Their focus on sports and inclusivity was a key factor for inclusion to FMOSH.

### Representation

The following countries were represented in FMOSH: Afghanistan, Belgium, Bulgaria, England, Northern Ireland, Poland, Romania, Republic of Ireland, Scotland, Somalia, Syria and Ukraine. Some of the young people were special needs children and refugees based in Belfast. The refugees were recruited based on their availability to participate at the FMOSH events.



The Commemorative Peace Football that was presented to all FMOSH projects.

### **FMOSH 2022 RESEARCHERS AND PARTICIPANTS**

#### Who was involved?

County	RESEARCHERS		PARTICIPANTS
	Female	Male	School / club members
ANTRIM	30	30	5530
ARMAGH	10	10	1530
DOWN	40	40	1138
FERMANAGH	20	20	4000
LONDONDERRY	50	50	5190
TYRONE	10	10	700
	Total: 320		Total: 18088
Volunteers	50	30	80
Project Managers + Assistant Managers	26	40	66
			Total: 146

**‘Some of our children come from families of migrant parents. They provided the FMOSH project a diversity that we celebrated at the exhibition. Our twinning event was very special. Bill Shaw, Project Manager. Building Bridges Community Boxing Club.**



Research Trips		
Sport	Facilitators	Researchers
Football	Windsor Park	60
GAA	Croke Park	28
Rugby	Kingspan Stadium	60



**‘The tour of the Kingspan Stadium and learning about the history of Ulster Rugby was fascinating. Our school is well known for playing rugby, so this experience was great. Pupil, ERGS.**



**‘We are big fans of Gaelic Football in my house and when I told my parents about FMOSH and going to Croke Park they were very interested in my homework’. Pupil. Sperrin Integrated College.**



**‘It’s been a great project. I love playing football and I have learnt so much about the game’s history in Magherafelt. We have a lot to be proud of.’ Pupil, Magherafelt High School.**





Excursion Workshops		
Sport	Facilitators	Researchers
All sports	<b>Ulster Museum</b>	<b>60</b>
Football	<b>Crusaders FC</b>	<b>40</b>
Rugby	<b>Kingspan Stadium</b>	<b>60</b>



**‘There was excitement amongst the pupils and their parents about FMOSH. The trip to Ulster Museum was wonderful. A very good workshop.’ Rachel Bennett, Teacher, Cedar IPS.**



**‘FMOSH enabled the club to invite our peers from the Cregan, Derry-Londonderry and share history. The project’s legacy established a annual peace game.’ Brian Maskey, Manager. Limestone United.**



**‘The opportunity to take part in FMOSH has been great. The pupils have pulled together, learnt about the power of sport and why it brings us together’ John Harkin, Teacher, Oakgrove IC.**

## MEDIA

Media response was mainly from Country Derry-Londonderry. In terms of The FMOSH Press Release (2), and Multi-Media Campaign (3) the distribution was extensive:

### Press:

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 22 Derry Journal: Football Makes Our Shared History Lottery Funding

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 23, Northern Ireland World: First School In The City With Peace Pitch

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 23, Londonderry & Roe Valley Sentinel: Oakfield College Field of Dreams

### Radio:

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April 23, Radio Foyle. A Letter to Stormont

Social media: all social media platforms were active with Google analytics reporting an upsurge in online CFA traffic. An average of 50 hits per day across all platforms indicated that participants and project partners were active in communicating FMOSH events.



**The FMOSH Peace Letter was delivered to the MLA at Stormont Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2023.**

### Recommendation:

- All brands that support a multi-agency project need to recognise the essence of child focused activities. Therefore, the CFA would be advised to produce a media ethicacy guideline which supports the charity's mission: to protect childhood through play.



## CONCLUSION

The aim to inspire peacemakers for the future and lay the foundations for annual community events, is now taking shape through 20 peace pitches, 16 of them FMOSH peace pitches, across the 6 counties of Northern Ireland. All peace pitches twinned with the Peace Pitch, Peace Village, Flanders Peace Field, Mesen, Belgium, site of the 1914, First World War, Christmas truces.

Heritage through cross-curricular shared learning was the perfect vehicle to bring intergenerational relationships closer together. Moreover, heritage brought young people from across all communities together in a feel-good factor project that blended history, traditional games and sports with the contemporary aspirations of young people. The landscape of NI's communities continues to change aided by the way we play in childhood into adults. FMOSH researchers discovered a recorded, physical and living history. Researchers produced exhibitions of their work that presented evidence of how play and sports have historically brought communities together throughout the country's turbulent recent history and throughout peace. As presented at Queens University Belfast, researchers presented the facts for; play transcends all forms of hate and war. FMOSH needed young people to highlight and present evidence that their project was more than just an academic exercise. The teachers and facilitators, feedback forms suggested that FMOSH was more than just a project for them too ( examples 4,5).

FMOSH launch at Queens University Belfast Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 proved to be successful under the circumstances; Covid-19 restrictions were in the process of being lifted. It allowed attendees to familiarise themselves with the direction of the project and how to achieve the project's aims.

The subsequent online Tool Kit and Resources were downloaded by all Project Managers. The tool kits and resources were also presented to them via online workshops. Some of the workshops included researchers and participants. This element clearly worked well for all the schools. Due to staff / volunteer availability, it was a little more challenging for the clubs, foundations and trusts, to find time to attend. A recorded version of the online workshop was emailed to absent project managers. This was effective and the CFA will use the same method again in future projects.

It is clear from feedback that the research trips and workshop excursions were very popular. Due to some staff and volunteers lack of availability, some projects missed out on the experience. However, this did not affect those respective projects' outcomes.

The FMOSH Queen's University Lecture was oversubscribed. Due to the facility's capacity the attendance was approximately 120 researchers and participants. This event might have been better facilitated over a 2-day period or at a bigger venue. Either way, the actual event proved to be a big success with all involved. The FMOSH film received a standing ovation which acted as a good gauge regards the researchers work being acknowledged by all in attendance. The QUB Lecture experience culminated with the researchers and participants producing a peace letter (6), with a focus of personally delivering the peace letter to Stormont in the week of the Good Friday Agreement 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



The FMOSH PEACE LETTER presented to Alex Maskey, Speaker of Northern Ireland Assembly and Sandra Duffy, Mayor of Derry & Strabane District Council.

Through FMOSH, schools, teachers, parents, social workers and volunteers, learned from each other and helped develop a role for their respective peace pitches. The evidence presented to The CFA to help produce this report establishes the fact that diversity through play provides a social impact. FMOSH has opened a pathway for sports, history and other academic subjects within the curriculum, to embrace the essential need for children / young people to continue to learn through play.

FMOSH researchers demonstrated that they gained social and civic awareness when they engaged in group discussions and public debates. They were confident when they addressed the need to lobby adults for project support. This was discussed amongst peer researchers with a view to encourage further debate back in their clubs and with their families.

Participants connected with their community events above and beyond expectations. Each FMOSH event was attended to full capacity. The researchers, project managers and volunteers, contribution was especially excellent around engaging a diverse representation of participants. This report fully acknowledges and celebrates their success for bringing communities together. Their work was displayed for public consumption at their exhibitions and then photos of the exhibition were uploaded on to their respective project pages: <https://www.childrensfootballalliance.com/football-and-peace/football-makes-our-shared-history/>

The feel-good factor amongst the different projects has formed a strong network to continue the FMOSH legacy. Annual games and events are now focusing on significant dates to celebrate peace. As illustrated by Foyle Down Syndrome Trust and their pledge to grow their event on International Day of Peace, 21<sup>st</sup> September.

FMOSH webpages illustrate the success of lasting relationships. The event at Lough View Integrated Primary School, North Belfast, is a good example regarding the project's impact. In addition, Limestone United FC invited the Lifehack project from the Creggan, Derry-Londonderry to their FMOSH exhibition and peace twinning event. Their football game ended with both teams committed to organise an annual FMOSH Peace Cup. A great deal of community support from Crusaders Football Club and the Duncairn Community partnership helped facilitate the successful FMOSH exhibition and game.

A FMOSH pattern evolved; many young people consider football and sport differently now that they have recognised a shared history. A sense of shared learning was mentioned by many teachers and facilitators. The project's researchers and participants found time to consider how they felt about play in the context of a recorded, physical and living history. As one researcher put it, **'I thought history was dead I had no idea that it can also be living'**. FMOSH reached across some scared landscapes and some divided communities, it reminded young and older people that the power of universal play does not end in childhood it is without doubt oxygen for Peace Makers for the Future.

#### **Recommendation:**

For reference, a generic online project introduction workshop be made available to all partners, facilitators and new projects.



The Peace Pitch Mesen, Belgium. FMOSH now has 16 plaques displayed at the site overlooking the 1914, First World War, Christmas Truces.

## Appendix

- (1) **Football Make History.** Funded by Erasmus+. Lead agency, EUROCLIO. EuroClio is a non-profit NGO and a registered association according to Dutch law. As a member-driven organisation it is led by a [General Assembly](#), is governed by a democratically elected Board and run by a professional Secretariat. The General Assembly is made up of EuroClio member organizations which convenes each year at the EuroClio Annual Conference.

- (2) **Press release**

For immediate release

### Football Makes Our Shared History receives Lottery boost

ORGANISERS of a unique sports heritage initiative have brought together Northern Ireland's Football Association, Gaelic Athletic Association, Ulster Rugby, Ulster Hockey, Peace Players and many more children's sports to celebrate shared history.

The Children's Football Alliance (CFA) has been awarded a £67,500 grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund towards its Football Makes Our Shared History project, which will culminate in an exhibition of children's research on how sports contribute to our shared history and the creation of peace pitches by twinning designated areas of play with Flanders Peace Field in Belgium, site of the First World War Christmas Truces in 1914.

Thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Fund grant, people of all ages across Northern Ireland, including schoolchildren, will research the impact of sport on local communities and how it has helped to shape a contemporary society.

Football Makes Our Shared Heritage will be launched at Queen's University, Belfast on Thursday, February 17.

Karl Oakes, head of sport at Queen's, said: "We're delighted that funding has been made available to enable people in Northern Ireland to learn more about how about sport has contributed to their shared history.

"Over the last 50 years across our indoor and outdoor facilities and through sport development programmes, we've seen that sport is a fantastic way of bringing students from different backgrounds together. Our current students have a choice of more than 50 sports clubs to join with participation and performance sporting opportunities.

"If we needed a reminder of the benefits that sport gives us in terms of health and wellbeing, social interaction and uniting communities, the pandemic has certainly given us that."

Olive Hill, NI Committee Member, The National Lottery Heritage Fund said:

"Thanks to National Lottery players more than £30 million raised each week goes to good causes across the UK. This project gives participants the opportunity to not only learn about their sporting heritage, but to become truly involved in it by exploring sport in an inclusive and engaging way. We know that giving people a chance to have a closer understanding and relationship to their heritage reaps many benefits, and is something we are proud to fund."

All research and oral histories collated during the project will be included on the Children's Football Alliance website: <http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com/football-and-peace/> and a short documentary film will be screened at Queen's University, Belfast later this year.

The Children's Football Alliance, projects director, Paul Cooper added: "Football Makes Our Shared History is the essence of play. We are delighted that that we've received this support thanks to National Lottery players and that Northern Ireland's great sporting associations value community games of all disciplines. We look forward to seeing the children's work and how they connect to their games with grandparents, relatives and friends. This is about the historic nature of play and how it continues to shape our landscape."

Chris Wright, Irish FA Foundation community relations officer, said: "Our work is centred around Football for All and we are pleased to support such an inclusive project as this one."

Brian McAvoy, CEO of Ulster Gaelic Athletic Association, said: "We place a great emphasis on outreach and using sport to bring people together from different social, religious and ethnic backgrounds. We look forward to supporting this project."

Chris Webster, Ulster Rugby's head of rugby development, said: "We look forward to celebrating how rugby brings us together."

Tim Wareing, Director & Head Coach, TW Sports / TW Braga, said: "Our boys and girls are looking forward to participating in Football Makes Our Shared History".

The sports heritage project will leave a legacy in each of the six counties. One of the project's aims is to have a peace pitch in each county twinned with Flanders Peace Field.

On April 24, 2018, the first peace pitch in Northern Ireland was unveiled. The George Best Peace Pitch is located on Cregagh Green, Belfast, where Best fell in love with the game. There are also peace pitches at: Enniskillen Royal Grammar School, (rugby pitch), Ashfield Girls School, Belfast (netball pitch) and North Coast Integrated College, Coleraine, (football pitch).

Schools, clubs, groups and teams are invited to take part in Football Makes Our Shared History. To find out more, please visit [www.childrensfootballalliance.com](http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com)

#### Notes to editors

For more details, contact Ernie Brennan on 07813 082584 or email [erniebrennan@thecfa.co.uk](mailto:erniebrennan@thecfa.co.uk) Alternatively, call Paul Cooper on 07875 283093 or email [paulcooper@thecfa.co.uk](mailto:paulcooper@thecfa.co.uk)

The Children's Football Alliance was established in 2008 to enhance children's development through play. The CFA seek to protect childhood through play.

#### About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Using money raised by The National Lottery, The National Lottery Heritage Fund inspires, leads and resources the UK's heritage to create positive and lasting change for people and communities, now and in the future. [www.HeritageFund.org.uk](http://www.HeritageFund.org.uk).

Follow @HeritageFundNI on Twitter and @HeritageFundNorthernIreland on Facebook and use the hashtag #NationalLotteryHeritageFund

Since The National Lottery began in 1994, National Lottery players have raised over £43 billion for projects and more than 635,000 grants have been awarded across the UK.

#### (3) Multi Media Campaign:

### FOOTBALL MAKES OUR SHARED HERITAGE

#### Publicity Campaign

The mission is to raise awareness of FMOSH

A six point publicity campaign using the following;

<b>Website</b>	Press Release down load / contacts /

<b>Email</b>	Email Press Release with Newsletter to 2,250 NCFA subscribers, stakeholders and associates feature Press Release
<b>Social Media</b> Blogs, online networks; Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn	Press Release to feature on social media with links to NCFA website.
<b>Radio</b>	National and regional. Plug press release to accessible stations
<b>Press</b>	National and regional. Press Release emailed to accessible News papers
<b>Television</b>	Plug press release to Regional Broadcasters
<b>All forms of publicity to feature NCFA &amp; HLF logo, web and contacts.</b>	

**(4) Example Feedback form**



[www.childrensfootballalliance.com](http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com) & [www.childrensfootballalliance.com/football-and-peace/](http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com/football-and-peace/)

**FOOTBALL MAKES OUR SHARED HISTORY feedback**

Funded by Lottery Heritage Fund; FMOSH produced by The Children's Football Alliance (CFA). The CFA are keen to further develop the FMOSH, therefore, we would be grateful if you could complete this form in order to help us provide the best service possible for future projects.

<b>1 Please tick</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
As a member of staff was FMOSH an enjoyable experience? Please explain why?		
It was enjoyable to see students become aware of the influences and difficulties sport faces and responds to in a positive way.		

<b>2 Please tick</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Did your pupils / participant enjoy the FMOSH? Please explain why?		
Pupils enjoyed FMOSH as it allowed them to experience different investigative methods. When they also became aware of the influences sport has. They also enjoyed realizing how sport had made positive contribution to people's lives and meeting people who were local heroes.		

<b>3 Please tick</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>



Did FMOSH allow you to be creative in delivering the project? Please explain why?		
We were able to delegate different roles to different students and we also stepped back from directly leading various strands of the project so that the student-lead aspect came to the fore.		

<b>4 Please tick</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
In terms of cross-curricular formal learning and non-formal learning activities, did the FMOSH achieve your aims? Please explain how?		
The project catered for allowing students to use different investigative, recording methods and interviews. With a longer timespan the project could be expanded, making it more cross curricular and also encompass a wider local community.		

<b>5 Please tick</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Did FMOSH allow you as a teacher / member of staff to connect on a different level with your pupils / participants? Please explain?		
I believe it allowed for the teacher to exhibit a strong connection with the community from which the students come from, thereby allowing a greater identification between pupils and teacher.		

*Outstanding      Good      Satisfactory      Un satisfactory*

<b>Please rate (tick) the success of the Project according to the following criteria:</b>				
<b>6.</b> How did you find the online project webpages?			Satisfactory	
<b>7.</b> How did you find working with the CFA?			Satisfactory	
<b>8.</b> Did you enjoy your Project excursion to Croke Park?	N/A			
<b>9.</b> Did you enjoy the trip to Queens University Belfast?		Good		
<b>10.</b> Did you enjoy your trip to Windsor Park?		Good		
<b>11.</b> Did you enjoy your trip to the Kingspan Stadium?	N/A			
<b>12.</b> Did you enjoy your trip to Ulster Museum?	N/A			
<b>13.</b> Did you enjoy your trip to Stormont?		Good		
<b>14.</b> Potential impact on future projects with the CFA?		Good		

15. Quality of usefulness of the GPGs website <a href="http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com/football-and-peace/">http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com/football-and-peace/</a>		Good		
16. Quality of administrative arrangements prior to project?		Good		

Please use this space below for further comments on:

**17. Particular strengths of the project:**

**Very good in focus of cross community learning.**  
**Very good in helping students develop educational ability to investigate topics which included and influenced their community and local sport.**

**20. Areas for improvement:**

More funding to promote projects in local media.

Thank you.

(5) Example Feedback form



[www.childrensfootballalliance.com](http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com) & [www.childrensfootballalliance.com/football-and-peace/](http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com/football-and-peace/)

**FOOTBALL MAKES OUR SHARED HISTORY feedback**

Funded by Lottery Heritage Fund; FMOSH produced by The Children's Football Alliance (CFA). The CFA are keen to further develop the FMOSH, therefore, we would be grateful if you could complete this form in order to help us provide the best service possible for future projects.

1 Please tick	Yes	No
As a member of staff was FMOSH an enjoyable experience? Please explain why?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Very enjoyable. The project worked on a multitude of levels. I was timely reminded how important football in the community truly is.		

2 Please tick	Yes	No
Did your pupils / participant enjoy the FMOSH? Please explain why?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
They enjoyed the process of producing their exhibition and organizing the twinning event. Our project brought together young people from the Bogside, Derry-Londonderry to play Limestone United in Belfast.		

3 Please tick	Yes	No

Did FMOSH allow you to be creative in delivering the project? Please explain why?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Yes. It allowed me to allocate roles to young people that earned trust in them when they collectively delivered a high quality project.		

<b>4 Please tick</b>	Yes	No
In terms of cross-curricular formal learning and non-formal learning activities, did the FMOSH achieve your aims? Please explain how?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Non-formal learning was clearly evident in terms of confidence when organizing Limestone United F.C. exhibition. Some of the participants took part in the project's film production and interviews, which featured on the FMOSH film.		

<b>5 Please tick</b>	Yes	No
Did FMOSH allow you as a teacher / member of staff to connect on a different level with your pupils / participants? Please explain?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Absolutely it did. I found the relationship between participants and staff was enthusiastic, positive and ultimately bonding.		

*Outstanding*    *Good*    *Satisfactory*    *Un*  
*satisfactory*

<b>Please rate (tick) the success of the Project according to the following criteria:</b>				
6. How did you find the online project webpages?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
7. How did you find working with the CFA?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
8. Did you enjoy your Project excursion to Croke Park?	N/A			
9. Did you enjoy the trip to Queens University Belfast?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
10. Did you enjoy your trip to Windsor Park?	N/A			
11. Did you enjoy your trip to the Kingspan Stadium?	N/A			
12. Did you enjoy your trip to Ulster Museum?	N/A			
13. Did you enjoy your trip to Stormont?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
14. Potential impact on future projects with the CFA?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
15. Quality of usefulness of the GPGs website <a href="http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com/football-and-peace/">http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com/football-and-peace/</a>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
16. Quality of administrative arrangements prior to project?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

<b>Please use this space below for further comments on:</b>
<b>17. Particular strengths of the project:</b>  Intergenerational perfection. A true FEEL-GOOD FACTOR project. Why isn't this project mandatory in every school, club and group, throughout Northern Ireland.

## 20. Areas for improvement:

It would be good to have sports leagues involved in supporting FMOSH

Thank you.

(6) Peace Letter



[www.childrensfootballalliance.com](http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com) & [www.childrensfootballalliance.com/football-and-peace/](http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com/football-and-peace/)

## **FOOTBALL MAKES OUR SHARED HISTORY LETTER TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

This letter is on behalf of the 16 peace pitches, 2000 FMOSH participants and over 200 project researchers (Ambassadors for Peace) represented from their respective schools and community groups across Northern Ireland.

After conducting our research projects and having presented our collective evidence at the FMOSH debate and discussion, facilitated at Queen's University, Belfast, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2022, we collectively assert that play is without a doubt the best way to celebrate peace.

In the light of our findings and with the unanimous agreement of all participants, the project's Ambassadors for Peace decided to present all parties at Stormont with this peace letter, a letter that requests all parties to pledge to ensure that all sports authorities come together to promote and celebrate peace through play, in all our schools, on every anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement on 10<sup>th</sup> April, and on the United Nations' International Day of Peace, 21<sup>st</sup> September.

We demand to celebrate peace through play. We ask all parents, teachers, sports coaches and our governments, to endorse the power of play.

We deserve lasting peace.

On behalf of all the children of Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely,

Football Makes Our Shared History's Ambassadors for Peace.