

# SOCCER AID PLAYGROUND CHALLENGE

BARCELONA and England star Toni Duggan kicked off the Soccer Aid Playground Challenge for Unicef last week, at an international school in Spain. She tells *First News* all about the day and how you can get involved with your own Playground Challenge.



## SCHOOL VISIT

I'm really enjoying my time in Barcelona. Since moving from Manchester City last summer, I've been busy getting to know my teammates and learning a new language. Among all that, I was pleased when Unicef asked me to drop in on a fantastic school just outside Barcelona recently. I've always loved meeting young pupils and this particular trip was really great.



The International School of Catalunya (or ISCAT for short) is a Unicef UK Rights Respecting School and has the same curriculum as schools in the UK, so there were lots of pupils there studying hard to get ready for their SATs and A levels. But the day I visited was a bit different.

## GET INVOLVED

I want to encourage girls and boys like you all across the UK to get together with your classmates to design a Playground Challenge, then do everything you can to raise as much as possible. All the money you raise will support Unicef's work to save and change children's lives around the world – just £17 could provide vaccines to protect 10 children from deadly diseases.

I also want to say thank you to the UK Government for matching every pound schools donate. It means that for every £1 you raise, the Government will also give £1, doubling the difference for children all around the world. And don't worry if your school can't fundraise on 8 June, all the donations will be matched until 6 July, so you still have time. Good luck and thank you for supporting Soccer Aid for Unicef!

See a film from Toni's visit at [first.news/toni](http://first.news/toni) and find out how you can get involved in the Soccer Aid Playground Challenge at [unicef.uk/firstnews](http://unicef.uk/firstnews)



## THE PLAYGROUND CHALLENGE

This year, the school is joining hundreds of schools across the UK that are taking part in the Soccer Aid Playground Challenge. On Friday 8 June, Unicef are asking pupils to bring in a small donation from home and to wear your favourite football or sports kit for the day, and kick, bounce or carry a ball around a fun and active obstacle course that you've designed yourselves.

The students at ISCAT explained how they had designed their Playground Challenge using the equipment they had at their school and invited me to get involved. The Soccer Aid match at Old Trafford on Sunday 10 June will feature Robbie Williams' England side against the Soccer Aid World XI, captained by Olympic legend Usain Bolt. So, for the ISCAT Playground Challenge, I joined one team of students representing England against a team representing the Soccer Aid World XI, captained by Year 11 student, Maya.

It was a competitive race and seeing how children of all ages came together for the Playground Challenge was so much fun – I really think it's the perfect way to raise money for Unicef.

It was nice to hear how women's football was so important to both the girls and the boys at the school. And that's an important part of the Playground Challenge too – it is for everyone. It doesn't matter if you're a boy or a girl, or how good you are at football.



Toni and team captain, Maya