



GIRLS' T1 RUGBY FESTIVAL

2024/25 saw the start of a new partnership between Inspire Together and the RFU (Rugby Football Union) through the School Rugby Manager programme. This new approach by the RFU is designed to:

1. *Create sustainable rugby playing in schools*
2. *Transition players to local clubs*

Through this programme there has been a focus on developing the new T1 Rugby format within Leicester schools through staff CPD & mentoring and inspirational events. T1 rugby is a newly launched non-contact format of the game played as touch or tag, incorporating elements from the union game which is adaptable to meet needs of students and can be used as a stepping stone to developing contact rugby.

With support from the RFU, Leicester Tigers and local rugby clubs, we have delivered two CPD trainings days for school staff and five festivals for primary, secondary and inclusion schools.

Our highlighted secondary school festival targeted Y7 girls, to introduce the games to a new cohort of non-rugby players within school. The event had over 50 girls in attendance from 5 different schools and many different backgrounds.



The festival consisted of a carousel of activities to introduce different points of the T1 game and finishing with plenty of friendly matches. The girls really enjoyed the festival and were keen for more opportunities to play T1 rugby. As a result, we have added T1 rugby to the calendar for the 25/26 academic year, with additional opportunities to celebrate the 2025 Women's Rugby World Cup hosted on home soil this summer.

