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Gesture from FIFA

Tickets For Schoolkids

Updated: 06:01, Friday June 23, 2006

Schoolchildren who missed out on a World Cup match because of an alleged ticket scam are off to Germany.

The 23 youngsters will get to see a match after a Government plea to the sport's governing body FIFA won them a second chance to see a game.

The pupils at Mayville High School in Portsmouth, Hampshire, have been given tickets to see the England v Ecuador match on Sunday.

Portsmouth Football Club helped organise the tickets with FIFA and have paid for the accommodation and transport costs.

Deputy headteacher Martin Castle, who will be accompanying the boys, who are aged between 11 and 16, said: "They are very excited.

"They aren't talking about anything else at all and neither are the rest of the children in the school."

Portsmouth co-owner Alexandre Gaydamak said: "Most of them are Pompey supporters, and I'm delighted my colleagues and I at the club have been able to make the trip happen for them."

The boys were among 350 youngsters across the country who paid up to £400 for the trip to Germany last weekend, organised by tour operator Activ4.



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But the trip ended in disaster because the match tickets were not provided by the expected supplier, Tickets For All, which is now being investigated by police.

Prime Minister Tony Blair promised earlier this week that the Government would try to help.

:: A 38-year-old man and a woman aged in her 40s have been questioned on suspicion of fraud, involving about £60,000 paid by Activ4 and other individuals.

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