**Are Premier League footballers paid too much?**

The Premier League began in 1992, taking over from the old first division. With money from Sky Television, so began the era of multi-million pound transfers and huge wages for the players. The highest earning Premier League footballer is Alexis Sanchez of Manchester United, who is alleged to earn £500,000 a week. Do they deserve this amount of money, or should it be spent elsewhere?

It could be said that footballers have to train hard to keep themselves physically fit and to constantly improve their skills; therefore they cannot eat and drink whatever they like and have to keep to a strict regime. Many would say that this sacrifice means that they deserve to be paid well.

On the other hand, hard-working and vital professionals such as teachers and nurses earn approximately £400 - £500 a week. This means that they would have to work for 20 years, to earn what Sanchez earns in a week. Is this fair?

Nevertheless, footballers make a decision to be footballers, just as nurses decide to be nurses (knowing what the wages are). Footballers provide entertainment for millions of people around the world, who pay money to watch them and for memorabilia. As a result of this, the football clubs earn millions of pounds in profit, so why shouldn’t the footballers take a large share of this?

Looking at it another way, if the clubs earn so much money, they should pay money towards community projects and charities. This would result in better lives and improved prospects for many children and young people rather than just a handful of footballers being able to live glamorous lives. After all, why do footballers need lots of sports cars each, when they can only drive one at a time? Some of this money could be spent on local grassroots football, to encourage more children to play and keep fit.

So on one hand, footballers earn clubs a lot of money from people paying to watch them and buying memorabilia. In addition, they train hard and have to sacrifice things in order to maintain their fitness. However, their job is not as important as many other professions, but they earn so much more than these. Furthermore, the money that they earn could be put to a much better use to change to lives of so many more people.

I feel that footballers do deserve a good wage, as they do generate a lot of money for the clubs. But I do disagree with how much they earn. Nobody can justify half a million pounds a week for playing football, whilst paramedics (whose job it is to save people’s lives in an emergency) would need to work for 20 years to make the same amount!

What do you think?