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CSC

Chess in
Schools and
Communities





A mission...

- To introduce chess to schools and inner city communities.
- To raise the profile of chess and highlight its educational and social benefits.
- To organise and promote world class chess events as a catalyst for mass participation.

Why chess?

Chess is the oldest and most enduring of board games. It is universally inclusive with over half a billion people playing worldwide. The international governing body of chess, FIDE, has over 150 member federations, a number second only to FIFA.

Chess crosses all barriers of class, gender, race, age, disability and language. With a history going back some 1300 years, the game is making immense strides in our technological age, with millions of games played online every day.

Chess is both fun and easy to learn. It is inexpensive and can be played anywhere at any time.



...to bring chess to all communities

Academic Benefits

Research has shown that learning chess improves children's academic performance, particularly mathematical ability and problem solving. CSC's innovative method of delivery is to teach chess as a lesson to a whole class in school curriculum time. A collection of academic research papers and articles are available on our website.

Chess improves academic attainment through:

- Developing critical thinking
- Developing logical reasoning
- Improving concentration
- Improving spatial awareness





Social Benefits

Chess brings together children of different age, race and gender through an activity they can all enjoy. It helps build individual friendships through shared learning experiences and competitions. Chess can strengthen bonds with siblings, parents and grandparents.

Chess teaches children about sportsmanship – how to win graciously and accept defeat. For children with adjustment issues there have been many instances where chess has led to increased motivation, improved behaviour, better self-image, and improved attendance.

In addition, chess:

- Promotes imagination and creativity
- Teaches that success rewards hard work
- Teaches children about planning ahead – to understand the repercussions of actions and to take responsibility for them
- Teaches children how to be patient

Tutor Training Courses:

CSC has a growing demand for primary school chess tutors across England and Wales. We not only run training courses for experienced chess players, but for teachers, teaching assistants and mentors with no chess experience, in order that they learn how to teach the game.

The introductory course for chess teacher covers:

- Benefits of chess
- A brief history of chess
- Overview of school chess in the UK
- CSC curriculum in primary schools
- Cross-curricular links
- Techniques for teaching chess
- Running a school chess club
- Resources and materials
- Chess mini-games and variants

Join CSC



We invite all state primary schools in England and Wales to join our programme. We provide chess equipment, books, software, teaching materials, training, and a weekly lesson from a CSC tutor. Please contact us on **020 7935 3445** or email info@chessinschools.co.uk



CHESSTIMONIALS

Alison Sharp, Headteacher, Ravenscroft Primary School, Newham, London:

“ This initiative is tremendously powerful in terms of raising our pupils' confidence and aspirations. We are very grateful to CSC for including us in their programme. I am proud of our pupils – they are so enthusiastic and dedicated. It is a privilege to be able to see the impact it is having on them. ”

Stephen Hall, Southwold and Orchard Executive Head Teacher:

“ Chess has really taken off at both schools. The game is showing them how to improve their concentration and thinking skills and the children are particularly excited by the prospect of seeing the world's best players in action at this year's London Chess Classic. It is fantastic to see our young players so engaged by the game. ”



Geoff Cresswell, Headteacher, Hawthorn Primary School, Cardiff:

“ I am delighted at the impact the chess sessions are having on the children's learning. The learning and playing of chess has so many positive features.

The game has particular value in that it is so easy to administer. By pairing pupils of similar ability against each other, all pupils get a good game and a sense of achievement and enjoyment. The social rules around chess in terms of respect, patience and calm are very good training for the children. The self control that is inherent in the game has application in many other walks of life.

I hope that the foundation in chess established this year will continue for years to come. ”

Katherine Marshall, John Ruskin Primary School, Southwark, London:

“ The children at John Ruskin Primary have benefited hugely from learning chess. The tutor from Chess in Schools has been excellent – the lessons are well-planned and resourced, and build very clearly on the previous week's learning.

Chess has helped with their ability to visualise shapes and patterns in maths, as well as to plan clearly and think before acting. It has also supported the development of social skills, helping with their self-esteem and building resilience. Children who achieve at all academic levels, from those who are listed on the special needs register to those on the gifted and talented register, have enjoyed and accessed chess. We are now running a very popular after school chess club too. ”

Where we are and what we offer



CSC teaches in over 250 schools in 40 boroughs (as of September 2013). Our medium-term objective is to have programmes in 400 schools by September 2015, and ultimately have all primary schools in England and Wales playing chess.

THE LONDON CHESS CLASSIC

All CSC schools are invited to The London Chess Classic. This is our flagship event; a tournament held annually at Kensington Olympia in December. As well as the elite Grandmaster tournament and numerous side events, the Classic provides over 2000 children the opportunity to receive training and take part in numerous competitions.

For more information see <http://www.londonchessclassic.com/schools.htm>



The Education Endowment Foundation

In April 2013 Chess in Schools and Communities received a grant from The Education Endowment Foundation to test the impact of teaching chess on Year 5 pupils' Key Stage 2 results. The project started September 2013, and involves 100 schools from 11 LEA boroughs across England. Schools were chosen because they have a high proportion of pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals. After a random selection process, 50 of the schools are receiving chess lessons from a CSC tutors, and 50 are acting as the control group without chess. The Institute of Education, who are partnering the charity in the study, will test both groups before and after the intervention.

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