

Chess in Schools – Proposal for Bradford

Chess in Schools and Communities (CSC) teaches chess in over 250 schools in 50 boroughs. Our medium-term objective is to have programmes established in 400 schools by September 2015. Ultimately, we want all primary school pupils in England and Wales to learn chess.

**Academic Benefits**

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

Chess improves academic attainment by:

* Developing critical thinking
* Developing logical reasoning
* Improving numeracy
* Improving concentration
* Improving spatial awareness

**Social Benefits**

Chess brings children together with an activity they can all enjoy. It helps build 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.

**Other Benefits**

* 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 patien

Vision for Bradford

Chess in Schools (CSC) is already active in Bradford. We are currently working in two schools, Horton Park Primary and St James Church, Allerton. We are very keen to expand our programme into further areas of the district, starting in September 2014.

We provide chess equipment, books, software, teaching materials, training and a weekly lesson from a qualified CSC tutor to all state primary schools in England and Wales which join our programme.

We propose a schedule along the following lines:

Ideally a programme would involve clusters of schools, in particular areas, so that one coach could cover a number of schools in one day, without having to travel too far between schools. So for example, a coach could attend one school for a double session in the morning, and then another school within the same cluster in the afternoon for another double session. The same coach could also perhaps cover a breakfast (pre-school) club, and an after-school club, in schools within the cluster.

In addition to the practical advantages of working with clusters of schools, there would be the possibilities of such schools working together, for example, having inter-school competitions, and tournaments, which would foster increased cohesion within the cluster.

Cost of CSC provision

Chess in Schools and Communities is a charity which is able and willing to subsidise

2/3rds of the cost of delivery of chess to schools in the academic year 14/15. The cost to the school will be a contribution of £750/year for one class, £900/year for 2 classes and £1200 for three classes. This would include 30 weeks tuition, all required chess equipment, teacher training at our chess teacher courses, the Yes2Chess programme, access to the London Chess Classic, workbooks and curriculum.

We have already seen the very significant benefits gained in many schools across the country, and are very much looking forward to making a similar impact in the Bradford District.

To register an interest or for more information contact;

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