

# CSC

Chess in  
Schools and  
Communities



[www.chessinschools.co.uk](http://www.chessinschools.co.uk)



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## 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 to encourage mass participation.



## Why chess?

Chess is a low-cost, high-impact educational intervention. It knows no boundaries of age, gender, faith, ethnicity or disability, and can be played anywhere at any time. The game fosters intellectual and emotional skills crucial to a child's wider development; we teach chess in disadvantaged communities to give every child the chance to realise their full potential. Chess is both fun and easy to learn!

# ...to bring chess to all communities

## Academic Benefits

Emerging research suggests a positive link between chess and academic attainment, especially in mathematics. Chess teaches essential skills such as problem solving, logical thinking, spatial awareness and concentration, which can be applied throughout the curriculum.

See [www.chessinschools.co.uk/research.htm](http://www.chessinschools.co.uk/research.htm) for more.





## Social Benefits

Chess brings children together with a game they can all enjoy. It helps build friendships through shared learning experiences and competitions. The game can strengthen bonds with siblings, parents and grandparents.

Chess teaches children 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 patient and take turns.

## Tutor Training Courses:

We have a growing demand for primary school chess tutors across the UK. We run training courses on how to teach chess for children, which are suitable for any level of chess-playing experience.

### The introductory course for chess tutors 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 our Programme

We invite all UK state primary schools to join our programme. We provide chess equipment, books, software, teaching materials, training and a weekly lesson or chess club delivered by a CSC Tutor. Please contact us on 020 7935 3445 or email [info@chessinschools.co.uk](mailto:info@chessinschools.co.uk)



# Chesstimonials

An independently designed 2016 survey of schools in the charity's programme found that 96% of staff felt pupils enjoyed the lessons, with strong support of its benefits to thinking skills (97%), problem solving (97%), sportsmanship (97%), self-esteem (90%) and concentration (89%).

*“ My son Reuben has loved having the opportunity to learn and play chess at Links Primary School. Their tutor combines an expert level of chess skills with a passion for the game that is contagious for the children. I have seen Reuben’s concentration deepen and extend, his confidence grow and he has learned many skills that he is transferring to other parts of his life. The chess has given him an opportunity to enjoy competition, to take risks and to improve his strategic thinking.*

*Inspectors were extremely impressed by [students at Bradford Central PRU's] attitudes when observing the weekly chess sessions, where all students spend up to an hour learning and playing chess with each other and staff. These are special moments and contribute hugely to students’ social development. ”*

**'Outstanding' Ofsted report for Bradford Central Pupil Referral Unit**



*“ Since our involvement with Chess in Schools as part of School Improvement project, both achievement and progress in maths has risen. Individual tracking of children’s progress has shown that all children make at least good progress and some children with difficulties made more than expected progress. ”*

**Kim McCalmont, Stone with Woodford CoE Primary School**

# Where we are and what we offer

We teach in and support over 1,000 schools nationwide, offering free equipment, staff training, access to our curriculum and online resources. Our medium-term objective is to reach 2,000 schools by September 2025, and we ultimately want all primary school pupils in the UK to learn chess.



## CHESS FEST

Since 2021, the charity has organised an outdoor chess festival, ChessFest, at London's Trafalgar Square and Liverpool's Chavasse Park. Attended by over 20,000 people these chess-filled fun days are open to all and completely free of charge.

**LONDON  
CHESS  
CLASSIC**

The charity's schools are invited to The London Chess Classic. This is our flagship event held annually in December. As well as an elite Grandmaster tournament, the Classic provides 2,000 school children with a free day of events, where they will receive a lesson from a chess master and play in a competition.

## In the Community

We deliver chess clubs and materials to over 60 public libraries nationwide, working in conjunction with local councils to help those who suffer from social isolation and offer a service to ordinary members of the public. CSC has expanded to offer chess to the elderly, and is developing its programmes to serve offenders in prisons too, giving inmates thinking skills as part of rehabilitation.

For more information see [www.chessinschools.co.uk](http://www.chessinschools.co.uk)

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