



27th March 2016

To whom it may concern,

We were thrilled to become involved with the Chess in Schools and Communities Project over two years ago. I was attracted to the initiative, which was linked to a research project investigating the positive link to attainment in mathematics and chess, as part of our thrust to raise standards in mathematics across our school.

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.

All children in Key Stage Two have benefitted in so many ways. Children have learnt the polite behaviours and the social conventions associated with playing the game. Children's focus and concentration has improved. It has particularly appealed to boys who like the competition but who find engaging for longer periods of time difficult. Girls have enjoyed the opportunity to work in an environment created by chess, which is quiet and highly focussed; they have enjoyed the competitive element that clearly evolves from a quiet intensity.

The teachers/tutors have all been highly motivating, building positive relationships with the children and staff. They themselves have an excellent understanding of what they are teaching and their obvious enthusiasm has been infectious. The activities provided for the children have been adapted to meet the challenge required by different groups. They have promoted high standards and have high, but not unrealistic expectations in children's work and behaviour.

The children have really enjoyed the opportunities offered to try out their skills in inter school competition and were delighted to have the chance to go to London to take part in the big Chess in Schools event in London.

As a small rural school in the south of Gloucestershire this project has given our children a rich and stimulating experience. It has connected our world to that of other schools, not only in our locality but further afield. Because of the real benefits that are clearly evidenced above, we would really like to begin a new project linked with the initiative and are presently looking for ways to fund it.

Yours sincerely,

Kim McCalmont

Headteacher

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