



An after-school chess programme, Junior Infants to 6th Class

One weekly afternoon, three separate programmes for three age bands, taught in the school. The Board is asked to approve the use of a room and a named contact. Nothing else is required of the school, and no cost falls on the school budget.

PREPARED FOR

DATE

FROM

Little Chess Explorers
littlechessexplorers@gmail.com

THE DECISION BEFORE THE BOARD

- 1 Use of a room, after school, on one agreed afternoon each week.
- 2 A named school contact for the duration of the block.
- 3 Vetting of the instructor through the school, if the Board requires it.
- 4 Permission for families to be told the programme is available, through whatever channel the school normally uses.

Cost to the school: nil under the standard arrangement. Programmes are parent-funded: families book and pay directly and the school provides the room.

01 The three programmes

PROGRAMME	CLASS GROUPS	SESSION	GROUP SIZE	WHAT PUPILS WORK TOWARDS
First Moves	Junior & Senior Infants	45 min	8–16 (target 12)	naming every piece, moving it correctly, and finishing a short game with a partner.
Playing the Game	1st & 2nd Class	50 min	8–16 (target 14)	playing a full legal game, spotting a piece under attack, and finishing with a basic checkmate.
Thinking Ahead	3rd to 6th Class	60 min	10–18 (target 16)	recognising common tactics, explaining a plan in their own words, and talking through their own game.

A school may take one programme, two, or all three in consecutive sessions on the same afternoon. Three age groups is still one afternoon and one room.



02 Cost, and who pays

THE STANDARD ARRANGEMENT

Programmes are parent-funded. Families book and pay for the block directly and the school provides a room, so nothing comes out of the school budget and no money passes through the school.

The current Dublin range is roughly 10 to 12 euro per child per session, booked as a block. The exact figure for your school comes in a written quotation, because session length and block length differ.

WHAT THE SCHOOL IS NOT COMMITTING TO

There is no rolling contract, no notice period and no automatic renewal. A block that is not working simply ends at the end of the block.

A group that does not reach its minimum does not run, and nobody is charged, including families who have already booked. A block can be extended while it is running, at the same rate, without a new booking.

A school-funded option exists for curricular blocks, whole-class workshops and funded initiatives, and is quoted separately.

03 What each side provides

THE SCHOOL

- A room with tables, sized for the group.
- One agreed afternoon, with groups running back to back.
- A named contact, reachable during the block.
- Chess sets, for blocks shorter than twelve weeks.

LITTLE CHESS EXPLORERS

- Programme planning, written for the class group.
- The teaching, in person, at every session.
- Lesson materials, whatever the length of the block.
- For blocks of twelve weeks or more, the chess sets are included.
- Enrolment and parent communication, ours or yours.

04 Who would be delivering it

Primary Education degree. Bachelor's Degree in Primary Education with a specialisation in English.

Early Childhood Education degree. Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education.

Children First training. Introduction to Children First, Tusla, October 2025.

Teaching chess since 2017. Educational and competitive chess taught in schools and clubs since 2017, from complete beginners through to competition preparation.

Master's in Bilingual Education. Master's Degree in Bilingual Education, awarded 2026.

Professional educational experience in Ireland. Early Years Educator in Dublin, working to the Aistear and Síolta frameworks and to Tusla Early Years regulations.



05 Safeguarding and documentation

Garda Vetting. Completed in Ireland. A vetting disclosure is granted to a relevant organisation and does not transfer between organisations, so the Board can run its own vetting before the first session, at no cost to the school.

Children First. Introduction to Children First completed with Tusla, October 2025.

Documentation. Public liability insurance is in place, and the certificate goes to the school before a booking is finalised. Vetting confirmation and anything else the Board requires are provided in writing before the first session.

No private lessons. Group teaching inside schools only. Individual pupils are not taken privately.

Photographs. No images of children are taken during sessions. Anything a school wants for its own newsletter runs through the school's consent process.

Collection. Children are handed over exactly as the school hands them over after any other after-school activity, and never released to anybody the school has not agreed.

06 The evidence, stated plainly

What is not claimed. No claim is made that chess raises attainment, raises IQ or develops particular brain regions. The largest school trial of chess, across 100 schools and 4,009 pupils, looked for an effect on maths, reading and science and found none. That trial is quoted here rather than left out.

What the research does show. A study of 931 primary pupils compared chess taught by instructors trained to teach problem-solving strategies, chess taught without that training, and no chess at all. Only the first group improved at mathematical problem solving. A separate study of 482 Danish pupils, who had one weekly maths lesson replaced with chess, found gains of 0.10 to 0.18 standard deviations in maths, largest among the pupils who reported being most bored at school.

Chess is not the active ingredient. The teaching is. That is what this programme is built around, and why the person planning and delivering the sessions holds primary and early years teaching qualifications.

Next step

Reply to littlechessexplorers@gmail.com with the class groups the school has in mind and a rough number of children. A written quotation follows with the exact figures, the group sizes and the dates. There is no obligation, and the whole thing can be handled in writing. Taking bookings for January 2027. Afternoons go in the order enquiries arrive.

Little Chess Explorers is the trading name used by the sole trader who delivers the programmes. Figures in this paper are indicative: session length and block length differ from school to school, so the only price that counts is the one in your written quotation.