



# Chess Programmes for Schools



## GARDINER CHESS VISION

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One of the main aims of **Gardiner Chess** is to foster a love of chess in children and in so doing help them reap the benefits educationally and psychologically in a world of increasing complexity.

A compelling article by **Dr Peter Dauvergne\*** supports our belief in the advantages of children learning to play chess, as the following excerpts from his abstract indicate:

### LEARNING TO PLAY CHESS CAN:

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- Raise intelligence quotient (IQ) scores
- Strengthen problem solving skills, teaching how to make difficult and abstract decisions independently
- Enhance reading, memory, language, and mathematical abilities
- Foster critical, creative, and original thinking
- Provide practice at making accurate and fast decisions under time pressure, a skill that can help improve exam scores at school
- Teach how to think logically and efficiently, learning to select the 'best' choice from a large number of options
- Challenge gifted children while potentially helping underachieving gifted students learn how to study and strive for excellence
- Demonstrate the importance of flexible planning, concentration, and the consequences of decisions
- Reach boys and girls regardless of their natural abilities or socio-economic backgrounds

### OTHER BENEFITS

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Apart from the well-researched educational benefits, as can be seen in the excerpt shown previously, possible outcomes of participation in a chess programme include improved self esteem for all students, particularly with learning problems—we have had exceptional successes with various forms of autism—and giving students a pathway to state, national and even international representation for those who are particularly keen and show talent.

*\*The Case for Chess as a Tool to Develop Our Children's Minds* by Dr Peter Dauvergne, University of Sydney July, 2000. Given these educational benefits, the author concludes that chess is one of the most effective teaching tools to prepare children for a world increasingly swamped by information and ever tougher decisions.

### CHESS IN SCHOOLS

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**Gardiner Chess** can formulate a chess programme to suit any school. This can incorporate one or more of the following teaching strategies that have been successfully adopted by a number of schools:

- \* Chess within the curriculum
- \* Extra-curricular chess
- \* Within a maths extension course
- \* As part of a gifted and talented programme
- \* During special activity times
- \* Chess coaching before, during or after school

**Gardiner Chess** provides many schools, both state and private, with chess coaches. For schools with no chess programme who are interested in exploring the possibilities outlined above, we are happy to discuss the options. By arrangement with the school, we can give a free demonstration, and this would be designed to inspire students to take up chess. In all cases where students would have to pay for their classes (ie user pays) we strongly recommend that enrolment forms are ready to hand out to students immediately after the demonstration. We have a generic enrolment form currently available on our website and this can either be printed out and distributed directly, or used as a template on which the school can base their own form. The form can be found at [www.gardinerchess.com/schools/2011/schoolspage2011.htm](http://www.gardinerchess.com/schools/2011/schoolspage2011.htm).

Many schools also engage **Gardiner Chess** to provide coaches for chess as part of the curriculum for students around grades 2-4, for either a semester or a term. The aim is to try and give all students a taste for chess, and for them to gain an understanding of the basic moves. Increasingly schools are including chess in such programmes as Maths Extension, Gifted & Talented and general activities sessions. If any of this is of interest to you for your school, please let us know and we can discuss the very reasonable costing structure.

## **COSTING STRUCTURE**

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There are two methods schools may consider for payment. The first of these, is for **Gardiner Chess** to charge the school a per lesson rate, with the school then charging the participant. This method is ideal for schools with large numbers, or schools who may wish to use surplus funds to purchase chess equipment and further enhance the program. This option is currently \$91 per lesson with discounts for multiple lessons. The second method is for **Gardiner Chess** to directly bill parents of students. The current cost of this is \$75 per term.

**Gardiner Chess** would be happy to discuss these options with your school and arrange the best solution for your school.

## **TOURNAMENTS**

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As a significant part of our chess programme we provide encouragement for the students to participate in tournament chess, either within their school or competing with other schools in the region. With practice, students become strong enough to enter one or more teams in the main inter-school chess competitions. We now have nearly 2,000 students participating in Interschool Chess Competitions in South East Queensland every term. Since 2006, Gardiner Chess has been running inter-school competitions for regional Queensland, thus increasing participation in chess further afield and bringing new opportunities for regional students to excel.

There is a computer pairings programme, named **Swiss Perfect**, that is ideally suited for tournaments large or small, and you may be interested to know that every school in Australia is entitled to **free use** of the state licence. If you would like to use the programme for tournament chess, please go to [www.swissperfect.com](http://www.swissperfect.com) and download the latest version using the name: **Queensland Junior Chess** and **key: AMSNBU78**.

## **COACHES**

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**Gardiner Chess** is the first chess business in Queensland to implement, at significant cost, an ongoing professional development programme for all of our coaches—our aim being to continue to improve our service to our clients.

All **Gardiner Chess** staff, by law, have to hold Blue Cards issued by the *Commission for Children and Young People*. Also, **Gardiner Chess** holds full Public Liability Insurance and Workers Compensation Insurance.

## **ENQUIRIES**

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We welcome any enquiries about chess, whether for programmes within schools, up-coming inter-school tournaments, or for the purchase of chess equipment—which we offer at discounted prices specifically for schools.

So we suggest interested teachers or parents contact us at **Gardiner Chess** on 07 5522 7221, fax 07 5522 7760, email [info@gardinerchess.com](mailto:info@gardinerchess.com) or check our website at [www.gardinerchess.com](http://www.gardinerchess.com).

