

# ***Accreditation for Teaching Strategy Games***

Rita Atkins

Investigate whether accreditation would enhance the position of strategy games in education

# *Chess instruction in schools*

## Competitive chess

- ◆ a series of chess games played
- ◆ FIDE rules are obeyed
- ◆ Round robin or Swiss systems tournaments
- ◆ UK Chess Challenge
- ◆ National Schools Championship

# *Chess instruction in schools*

## Scholastic chess

- ◆ Exercises that use the board and the chess pieces
- ◆ Chess and logic puzzles
- ◆ Structured investigations
- ◆ Mini games: follows the rules with a subset of pieces
- ◆ Chess variants: new rules are introduced

# *Competitive <-> Scholastic*

Taught by chess experts

Breakfast, lunch or after-school club

Teaching with game analysis

Mixed age and ability

Informal setting, attendance by choice

Learn by playing

Taught by teachers

Chess Lesson

Variety of chess activities

Uniform age

Formal setting, compulsory attendance

Learn by problem solving

# *An example accreditation of Scholastic Chess*

*John Foley, Rita Atkins*

- ◆ The Certificate should be recognized by a qualification awarding body, such as NCFE, e.g. as a Customised Award.
- ◆ **Stage 1: Basic Chess Knowledge** ensures that there is adequate knowledge of the rules and moves of chess. Delivered as an online course, such as the [learningchess.net](http://learningchess.net) online tutor.
- ◆ **Stage 2: Introduction to Teaching Chess** is one-day course that emphasizes the educational purpose of chess.
- ◆ **Stage 3: Teaching Scholastic Chess** is a two-day residential course for those who have passed Stage 2 and covers in-depth chess pedagogy and classroom management.
- ◆ **Stage 4: Lesson Observation** is the final stage of the certification and comprises an in-class observation.

## *Some answers*

- ◆ Chess can be used as a learning tool where the board and the pieces are used to carry out investigations and solve maths and logic puzzles.
- ◆ The purpose of teaching chess is to improve children's reasoning skills consistent with the relevant academic curricula.
- ◆ There have been attempts to teach chess in lesson time in some countries, e.g. Hungary.
- ◆ There is a need to develop text books and teachers' resource books for scholastic chess.
- ◆ There should be a set syllabus for an introductory course of scholastic chess teaching.

# *Some questions*

- ◆ Report from the Education Endowment Foundation, in August 2016, found no evidence that chess instruction improved children's attainment in maths, reading or science. Do you agree?
- ◆ How do you convince education authorities about the benefits of strategy games in the classroom? This would be a prerequisite of accreditation.
- ◆ Is there demand for a qualification framework for teaching chess?
- ◆ Is there a formula to blend scholastic chess with competitive chess optimally?
- ◆ Would a Scholastic Chess Instructor Certificate be recognized in European countries? How can we make sure that it complies with the European Qualification Framework?

# *References*

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/our-work/projects/chess-in-primary-schools>

- ◆ <http://www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk/european-qualifications-framework-eqf.html>
- ◆ [www.learningchess.net](http://www.learningchess.net)
- ◆ <http://sakkpalota.hu/index.php/en/>
- ◆ <https://www.ncfe.org.uk/>