



**CITY OF PETERBOROUGH
ACADEMY
SPECIAL SCHOOL**

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Application to the British Chess Educational Trust for the City of Peterborough Academy.

Introduction

Chess was introduced into our school in September 2012. We are a school for children with autism aged 4-14 years and will in time cater for students up to the age of 18 years.

Participation

Since opening we have run a weekly lunchtime club with the invaluable help of New England club member, Ivan Garrett. Children attend on a voluntary basis each Thursday and our membership runs at approximately 20% of our student cohort. The students range from beginners to experienced chess players who play against each other, learn the rules of the game, and the instructors set up special moves to practice.

Benefits

We have some committed members who look forward to the Thursday club. Motivation has shown that some of the students now play chess both at school and in the home setting.

It has greatly impacted on behaviour in a very positive way. Many of our students find social interaction complex and difficult at times. They are now observed playing chess contentedly in pairs with appropriate interaction and polite manners. Playing chess in school has provided our students with another opportunity to mix with students outside of their regular class and social groups. It has enabled students from other classes to form the basis for future possible friendships and interactions.

Our students often find it difficult to develop social leisure skills and the chess club has given them the opportunity to positively do so. We are working towards the students being able to take part in inter school competitions in the future.

Mrs S Bailey

Principal

The City of Peterborough Academy Special School

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