

Dear teacher/principal,

Laois Education Centre have partnered with Ficheall.ie this year to give your school the opportunity play fun and friendly games of chess at a one-day tournament in early 2020 . Registration is now open but will close on **Friday 18th October 2019**. To register please click on this link <https://forms.gle/ZW8PQBWURR6ywUhH9>

Ficheall.ie is the network of primary school teachers and principals in Ireland who promote chess for the social, cognitive and mental-fitness benefits it has for students. The organisation is completely run and operated by volunteer primary school principals and teachers. See the [Ficheall.ie](http://Ficheall.ie) website for more information.

In 2018/2019, over 2,000 students represented their schools in chess at fun and friendly one-day tournaments around Ireland. The Ficheall.ie website have a series of lesson plans to help teachers deliver chess in their schools and classrooms - [see here](#). Ficheall.ie teachers also facilitated summer [courses in chess](#) around Ireland last July which allowed over 130 teachers learn the basics of chess with the focus of developing the game in their schools in 2019/2020.

Many teachers choose to introduce chess into their school to develop social skills and to provide a space for students to meet on a level playing field which is not based on reading, writing or maths ability. The game also provides teachers and students with an opportunity to talk about accepting defeat graciously and building a growth mindset. All teachers love the opportunity to create school chess teams who represent the school and wear the school jersey at a chess tournament with other schools as the school jersey is usually reserved for sporting endeavours. Every teacher likes to tailor their chess-in-schools Ficheall project to meet the needs of the students in their school.

The Ficheall.ie Team organise registered schools into one-day regional tournament groups. The tournaments provide a focus to the playing of chess from October to January. The one-day tournaments are designed to be fun, friendly and non-competitive. No medals are awarded. Every attending school receives a unique certificate of participation to mark their school's chess in schools project. Schools are charged €5 per student to cover the cost of chess sets, venue fee, insurance and chess arbiter services at the one-day tournament which will be held in January and February 2020.

Should you have any queries please email [info@ficheall.ie](mailto:info@ficheall.ie)