

Project - Chess School Polimac Kilkenny

Irish Chess Union Academy Instructor
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Chess Teacher in 20 Primary schools and 2 Chess clubs
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The Chess School Polimac Kilkenny is the most successful school of chess in Ireland .Established in May 2005 in City Kilkenny – Republic of Ireland . I came from Croatia as 2100 rated player in 2002 and started my work in Kilkenny Chess Club with 4 juniors .One of them is now 2300 player and he just finished his University in Dublin .

Since 2003 over 3000 children in their schools learnt how to play chess with me in their Elementary Schools . Not only that we had huge success in competitive chess but as well we did well to Educate our students and to teach them the most important thing – to think !

Despite having 14 Irish Junior Chess Championship , 2 British , 1 Women Fide master and FM I am most proud of the other benefits that Chess gave to my students !

At the moment I am teaching chess in few DEIS schools – disadvantage areas, schools with kids from average or not wealthy families . We found out that kids that play chess are more likely to improve nearly in all subjects but most importantly to socialize with kids from other (higher social class, wealthier background etc.) schools .

Not only that kids are playing chess but as well they are accepted and respected in community as people with great skill . I was praised by teachers , parents and Principals for amazing results that we had in those schools .

Chess School Polimac Project

I would offer chess lessons too School Principals (12 weeks) course . In those 12 weeks kids would learn how to play chess and they would play their first tournament . In second term of 12 weeks I would have clear picture of strength of the students .

Then I would invite top 8 – 10 players to Private Chess Club where I could have easily 50 kids from lets say 6 Primary schools . The Individual tournaments for all kids on monthly bases is giving me clear signal who is progressing best and who need more attention .

Note that not one kid from all schools are excluded from tournaments and private coaching if they wish to participate ,

I have special way for progress .

When students starts they are Pawns and then they are progressing to King title . The tournament performance , behaving , discipline, rating and tests are used for progression .

Out of 3000 kids we only had 12 Kings and all of them are great Chess players but most importantly they are great people and very educated members of Irish Society .

My Presentation Agenda :

1. Working with kids with Special Needs
2. Fund-raising as we do not have any State Support
3. Child Protection Policy
4. Working in Girls Schools
5. My experience with kids that had problems in schools
6. Working with Traveller Community here in Ireland

I would like to talk about my experience of teaching in schools , forming the junior clubs , coaching top players , preparing school chess teams , projects of teaching the teachers and charity work through chess !

Referent list

1. Fide President visit to one of the schools where I teach

<http://fidefirst.com/?p=2385>

2. Darko Polimac Presentation to Minister Phill Hogan

<http://www.kilkennypeople.ie/news/kilkenny-news/minister-hosts-reception-for-chess-whiz-kids-1-4305687>

Fund-raising for local charity

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8oJGIDx73Jc>

Local newspapers about Kirsans visit to School in Dublin

<http://www.dublinpeople.com/article.php?id=3678>

and more than 100 newspaper articles here

<http://www.kilkennypeople.ie/kip-search-element-7-28320?slotSearch=true&siteId=2.10971&submitted=true&action=search&freeTextQuery=darko+polimac>

Please find attached letter s

Fide President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov

Two School Principal letters from DEIS schools – Ireland

More about DEIS program here <http://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Services/DEIS-Delivering-Equality-of-Opportunity-in-Schools-/>

Mr Kevin O Connell the FIDE CIS Chairman is working with me at MFL project here in Ireland

<http://movesforlife.ie/> and <http://movesforlife.ie/about/>

Successful Project <http://www.enniscorthyChessclub.com> I am club head coach