

CONTRACT
BRIDGE
ASSOCIATION
OF IRELAND



**Schools Bridge
Programme: An
Opportunity For
Teachers**

A programme for the development of personal and social skills

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Schools Bridge Programme

Skills for the Classroom

Guidelines From The Department Of Education

Each school designs its own transition year programme, which provides for the development of students personal and social skills. It encourages research and activity based self-directed learning, both inside and outside the classroom. The following are just some of the associated skills that would be developed by your pupils through learning bridge:

- Improved Memory Work
- Enhanced Communication Skills
- Improved Concentration
- Reasoning

- Searching for Patterns
- Building of Personal Values
- Justification
- Challenges

- Getting on with others as a necessity
- Talking and discussing
- Deductive Reasoning
- Constructing arguments to justify reasoning

The initial proposal is to introduce bridge as part of the Transition Year Programme and expand from there as demand requests. Our initial objective is to target schools in the same region so as to facilitate the formation of school leagues.

There are two different possibilities for introducing bridge into your school. Firstly trained teachers can be provided or secondly teachers from your school can participate in one of our teacher training programmes, where full curriculum Manuals will be provided.



CBAI Teachers Manuals

The CBAI Teachers Manuals include 23 lesson plans each best suited to a double class period. The CBAI would encourage you to become a CBAI accredited teacher before beginning your school lessons though this is not required. Contact the CBAI headquarters for details of teacher training programmes.

Mini Bridge

This is a simplified version of bridge available from the CBAI headquarters. If opting solely for this simplified version, teachers must train as a director to run newcomer games during the programme.

Schools Competitions 2004-2005

- All Ireland Pairs Championships - Laurel Hill School, Limerick. Sat. Oct 8th 10.30am – 6pm
- Limerick Congress Schools Pairs Competition Sat Oct. 15th. (Information from Limerick Congress Secretary)
- All Ireland Team of Four Championship in Galway Bridge Centre Fri Feb 10th (7.30pm) – Sun Feb. 12th (1pm finish)
- Interprovincial U-20 Championships (Qualifiers from Galway Competition) Belfast in March (Fri/Sat)
- Entry Fees approx €10 per person including a meal

Contract Bridge Association of Ireland Development Office provides:

- ❖ A free starter kit of bridge equipment
- ❖ Subsidised teaching materials in the form of “Teachers Resource Manual”
- ❖ Certificates Of Achievement
- ❖ Annual Newsletter
- ❖ National and Local Bridge Competitions
- ❖ Every year there is a National Schools Pairs Final held in November in Limerick and Schools Teams Championships held in March in Galway. Students require parental and teacher approval for this.

The Students Agree:

- ❖ To attend bridge classes, unless otherwise directed by classroom teacher
- ❖ To maintain a respectful and safe bridge table attitude
- ❖ To advise classroom teacher should bridge interfere with regular school work
- ❖ To advise telephone number and birth dates



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The Irish Youth Bridge Committee will provide:

- ❖ **A bridge Summer Camp - Summer 2006 (May 6th – 9th)**
- ❖ **Organised training weekends incorporating students from all over Ireland**
- ❖ **Opportunities for interested students to enter a Mentor programme**
- ❖ **Organised Trials for qualification for the Irish Schools & Junior Teams for International Competition**
- ❖ **Subsidies for successful Juniors to play in World and European Events**
- ❖ **Scholarships to Youth Camps where possible – but any can pay**

Getting Your Class Started

- 1. Suitable as a social activity that requires no special or extensive equipment and can be conducted almost anywhere**
- 2. While ideal for the transition year programme bridge is best suited to double class periods to allow for a period of instruction and a period of play**
- 3. The CBAI web site www.cbai.ie links to free Learn to Play Bridge Software on the ACBL web site.**

AFTER THE LESSONS

At The School

- 1. Help to start a school bridge club where lesson graduates can practice and new students can take lessons. Please contact your Regional Secretary for local assistance in running your club.**
- 2. The CBAI web site www.cbai.ie links to free Learn to Play Bridge Software on the ACBL web site. Their system does vary from the basic Irish System in that it teaches a strong rather than a weak NT and 5 instead of 4 card Majors – but still a superb interactive teaching tool which is FREE**
- 3. Introduce your bridge club to playing on line on free internet sites like www.bridgebase.com**

Outside The School

- 1. Promote the bridge class and club to the local newspapers and radio. The media is always interested in youth**
- 2. Recruit (with the help of your Regional Secretary), a Club Manager and organise a short game for your students weekly from 4 weeks classes onwards**
- 3. Work with a local bridge club and get them to run an "Adopt a junior" programme to get young people playing**

