

FENCING INFORMATION

Welcome to Fencing at Abingdon Prep. Fencing is taught by Jenny Douglas, A British Fencing Association registered Professional Coach. Fencing is available to Pupils aged 7 years and above. Places are allocated on a first come first served basis, as spaces are limited.

Pupils will initially learn foil but can progress onto the other weapons in time. All equipment is provided and meets current BFA governing body safety regulations. The intention is to develop good fencing skills with children participating in competitions when they are willing and able.

Jenny Douglas has been involved in fencing for more than 30 years, re-training in 2001 with the Hungarian Olympic Squad Coaches as part of the BFA initiative to upgrade the standard of coaching and safety in British Fencing. She is a BFA registered coach and has enhanced CRB, and holds First Aid and current Child Protection regulation certification. She is also the CEOPS lecturer for British Fencing's National Academy. She is qualified to teach foil, epee and sabre to international level and is an England Youth Development Squad Coach and National Coach. She has fencers in the England and Great Britain foil, epee and sabre squads.

Fencing will cost £95 per term with all equipment included. Dress must be appropriate to the sport for safety reasons. Practical trainers, tracksuit or similar sports trousers (no excessive toggles, zips or "fashion accessories" that could catch) and t-shirts should be worn. Your child may not be allowed to participate in a session if they are incorrectly dressed.

Parents should be aware that during the course of the fencing lesson the fencing instructor will inevitably be in close proximity to the pupils at times. There may be a need to look closely at the pupil and to adjust posture, or demonstrate how to hold a weapon, correct a hand leg or hip position. The Coach is fully aware of the need to be sensitive in the way this is done and to tell the pupil what they are going to do in advance and ask their permission. It is important that parents respect the professional integrity of the Coach in deciding when touch is appropriate to assist a child to achieve an activity. Jenny Douglas is more than happy for parents to come to lessons if they wish to see how they are run and their child's progress.

Please also be aware that safety is a major consideration in the teaching of fencing. If a child is, by their behaviour, a persistent danger to themselves or others the parents will be contacted. Two warnings will be issued to the child to improve behaviour and if these go unheeded the child may be asked to withdraw from the class.

Fencing is a fun sport that can really help a child gain self-confidence and improve their concentration and coordination. It does, however, take time to learn the skills and thus requires a level of commitment and regular attendance at classes.