

Policy title	:	STEM Policy
Date approved	:	September 2023
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### **S.T.E.M (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).**

#### **What is STEM?**

S.T.E.M. refers to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. STEM helps children *integrate knowledge across disciplines, encouraging them to think in a more connected and holistic way.*

Research shows that children between the ages of **7 and 13** form opinions towards subjects like STEM and this therefore has a significant impact on their employment opportunities later on. Encouraging children to engage with STEM when they are 15/16 is often ineffective. Providing opportunities early on and encouraging children to explore real world STEM is the most effective way of building children's engagement, contextualising learning and preparing children for the wider world.

Through taking part in lessons, STEM ambassadors, demonstrations and activities linked to businesses and industry, children can gain insights into the various job roles open to them and get excited about the new directions their studies could take them in. STEM allows us to break down stereotypical barriers which may hinder a child's perspective of the wider-world and contextualise learning to provide an opportunity to develop mastery.

Where possible we also reach outside the classroom, to enhance and enrich the school curriculum by making links with the world of work, so that children can relate school S.T.E.M. subjects with real world experiences.

#### **Health and Safety**

All aspects of STEM are taught in a stimulating environment. Children are taught to recognise that there are hazards in living things, materials and physical process, and assess risks and take action to reduce risks to themselves and others. When using various pieces of equipment children are given the necessary supervision and resources to ensure they are working in a safe environment. All activities are risk assessed if required.

### **Role of Subject Leader:**

- to ensure opportunities for STEM are planned for across the curriculum.
- to support Science and DT subject leaders with planning, resourcing and monitoring progression across the school.
- to plan for opportunities which involve the wider community (including STEM ambassadors).
- to support teacher's with planning for cross-curricular links.

### **Monitoring and Evaluating**

The STEM subject Leader is responsible for monitoring the standard of the children's work and the quality of teaching in Science and DT.