

Key Principles of a STEM Club

The STEM Clubs Programme supported by the Gatsby Foundation conducted research with STEM organisations and schools across the UK to identify the key principles that as a minimum all STEM clubs should aim to achieve. Enabling a STEM club to be supportive of young people's learning, maximise the benefits and be recognised as a valued asset in the school.

These standards underpin the STEM Clubs Programme and their aim for all school STEM clubs to achieve a thriving and successful status. Club Leaders are encouraged to adopt these key principles and use them as guidance to develop their club.

Principles	Summary
Leadership and Organisation	<p>Clubs should meet regularly and have sustained engagement to ensure that young people have a regular opportunity to engage with extra-curricular STEM activities.</p> <p>Clubs should be highly visible within the school and to the wider community, aiming to raise awareness and promote the importance of STEM.</p> <p>Clubs should be run or overseen by a dedicated individual with good support and endorsement from within the school.</p>
Activities, Projects, and Resources	<p>Clubs should undertake a broad variety of engaging activities and resources to enhance STEM knowledge and develop key skill sets to maximise young people's learning.</p> <p>Clubs should be a vehicle to help young people raise their attainment levels, relate learning back into the classroom and increase enjoyment of STEM.</p> <p>Clubs should include content that links to real world context and supports careers awareness.</p>
Club Members and Learning	<p>Clubs should be inclusive and enable young people to stretch their capabilities and develop vital skill sets.</p> <p>Clubs should improve knowledge and understanding in one or more 'STEM' subjects and develop their knowledge of STEM related jobs, roles, and career paths.</p> <p>Clubs should positively impact club member confidence and enjoyment of STEM, building a 'STEM is for Me' feeling</p>
Engaging with Others	<p>Clubs should engage with the wider community to promote STEM subjects, knowledge and learning.</p> <p>Clubs should seek to widen participation by engaging with non-club member students and increase their STEM awareness.</p> <p>Clubs should seek to engage with the wider STEM sector, both on a local and national level. Broadening understanding of careers awareness and real world context of STEM.</p>
Evidence of impact	<p>Clubs should collect evidence of their impact on student members.</p> <p>Clubs should regularly review and assess impact to develop the club to better meet the needs of the students and school.</p> <p>Clubs should develop and implement an impact measurement plan.</p>

STEM clubs working towards a STEM Club Quality Mark should reference the individual criteria relevant to each of the award standards. Further information is available at: [STEM Clubs Quality Mark](#)