St Francis Xavier Primary School
STEM Policy

Rationale

St Francis Xavier Primary School recognises the critical importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education in preparing our students for the 21st century. This policy outlines our commitment to fostering a culture of inquiry, innovation, and problem-solving through engaging STEM learning experiences. We believe that all students, regardless of background or ability, deserve access to high-quality STEM education.

St Francis Xavier Primary School is committed to providing a dynamic and engaging STEM education that empowers students to become critical thinkers, problem-solvers, and innovators. By implementing this policy, we will prepare our students for success in the 21st century and beyond.

Purpose:

At St Francis Xavier Primary School, we aim to:

- **Develop STEM Literacy:** Equip students with the foundational knowledge and skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
- **Promote Inquiry-Based Learning:** Encourage students to ask questions, investigate, experiment, and draw conclusions through hands-on activities.
- **Foster Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving:** Develop students' abilities to analyze information, identify problems, and design creative solutions.
- **Cultivate a Growth Mindset:** Encourage students to embrace challenges, learn from mistakes, and persevere in their learning.
- **Promote Collaboration and Communication:** Develop students' abilities to work effectively in teams and communicate their ideas clearly.
- **Increase Awareness of STEM Careers:** Expose students to diverse STEM career pathways and inspire them to pursue STEM-related fields.
- **Ensure Equitable Access:** Provide all students with equal opportunities to participate in STEM activities and resources.

Implementation

St Francis Xavier Primary School implements the following strategies:

Hands-on Learning:

- Provide students with access to age-appropriate STEM resources and materials, such as building blocks, robotics kits, and scientific equipment.
- Conduct hands-on experiments, investigations, and design challenges.
- Utilise outdoor learning spaces for nature-based STEM activities.

Technology Integration:

- Integrate technology tools, such as computers, tablets, and interactive whiteboards, into STEM lessons.
- Provide students with opportunities to learn coding, programming, and digital design.
- Utilize online resources and virtual simulations to enhance STEM learning.

Equity and Inclusion:

- Ensure that all STEM activities are inclusive and accessible to students with diverse learning needs.
- Promote gender equity in STEM participation.
- Provide culturally relevant STEM experiences that reflect the diversity of the student population.

Lunch time club:

- Provide students with hands-on, engaging activities that foster interest and skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.
- An extracurricular space for exploration and collaborative learning outside of the traditional classroom setting.

Evaluation: This policy will be revisited every odd year (e.g. 2025, 2027) and reviewed as part of the School's Review cycle or as changes are made to the Victorian Curriculum.