

**Title of Research Project:** Stance on STEM

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**Summary:**

During a three-year teacher-researcher collaborative project, attitudes of students towards STEM subjects and careers were monitored and evaluated before, during, and after a school-based STEM initiative. A DEIS secondary school in partnership with two local DEIS Primary schools formed a cluster to promote digital and STEM education. Primary school students engaged in a programme to encourage coding and robotics implemented by the post-primary school STEM coordinator. The Primary school students also visited the post-primary school campus numerous times during 5th and 6th class to engage in science experiments using facilities unavailable to them on their own campus. At the end of each school year the children engaged in a STEM beliefs questionnaire that measured students' interest in a range of STEM activities, careers, and school subjects. These results were compared to baseline data to gauge the impact of the STEM initiatives. In both primary schools, students' interest in STEM subjects and careers increased during the initiatives. In addition, upon entering first year of post-primary school, students involved in these STEM initiatives expressed interest in a wider range of STEM careers in comparison to first year students who were not involved in these initiatives.

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