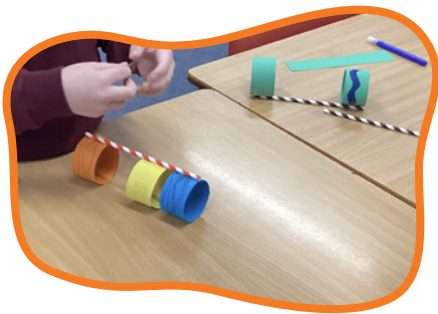


A STEM journey

Graeme Robertson is a teacher at Dens Road Primary School, Dundee. In this article, he tells us about his experiences of attending professional learning at SSERC.



As a teacher delivering digital learning and STEM for upper primary and leading these areas for the whole school, the professional learning available through SSERC has been invaluable for my own development and for supporting colleagues in our school. Over the past couple of years, I've participated in various SSERC programmes – face-to-face training days and online sessions – and in 2022-2023, I was involved in the Primary Cluster Programme.



What makes SSERC's professional learning so effective is that you receive not only experiential training but also physical resources to implement the learning immediately with your learners.

"Using Marty, Indi and Bolt lets me learn more about coding and I am able to create much better codes to complete lots of tasks."

Primary 6 learner

The comprehensive materials – presentations, planning documents and lesson resources – further support putting the training into practice. Access to the professional learning community via Teams means you're never alone in your implementation efforts.

"There are lots of STEM skills which I can use in other areas of my learning and in my life."

Primary 7 learner

These opportunities are open to all educators, regardless of role or prior experience. I've benefited from sessions where I felt like I was going into the unknown and others where I felt I could contribute more of my expertise and skills. The value lies in the diverse perspectives shared.

While resources are provided, scaling up for classroom or wider school use requires securing additional materials, considering factors like procurement, approved suppliers, network capabilities, storage and upkeep. It can be challenging, but giving yourself time and leveraging contacts within your district can help overcome barriers. SSERC is also available to assist with persistent issues.

"Science is so much fun and it makes we want to be a scientist."

Primary 4 learner

Introducing new devices and approaches from SSERC training has created a real buzz in our school around digital learning and STEM. However, the real sense of achievement and fulfilment comes from building true impact. This requires commitment from yourself as the participant, leadership, staff buy-in, and time to foster a supportive ethos. Despite the challenges, the professional growth has been invaluable, and I would eagerly participate again, inspired by the potential for an even greater impact.

Our school's STEM journey began with articulating a new vision in 2021, involving and listening to the staff, learners, and wider school community, which led us to SSERC's enriching opportunities. If you are interested in STEM, I highly recommend exploring SSERC's offerings. Understand your goals, anticipated next steps, and approach the learning with an open mind. The journey is fulfilling, rewarding and exciting!

