

Exciting project being undertaken by 30 children across year 5.

**Imagine a City 2023, Project Overview:**

Funded by Millenium Point, Imagine a City is a site specific Engineering and Immersive Drama project that will take place during Spring term 2023. The project will be undertaken in school and at the University of Wolverhampton and the University of Birmingham, exploring the positive links between engineering mindsets and children’s wellbeing.

120 KS2 children from across 2 Birmingham and 2 Wolverhampton primary schools (1 class from each school, 4 classes in total) will take part in interactive drama and civil engineering workshops to design and build prototype cityscapes. Engineering students from the Universities Of Birmingham and Wolverhampton will work with the children and become STEM Ambassadors for each school. An exhibition of the imagined cities will be created on both campuses for participants and the public to visit.

The Play House will visit the school in the early stages of the project to co-develop the drama / storyline along with the class of KS2 children. Going away with a good understanding of the children’s ideas, The Play House will then work with PHD engineers to create the drama that will be developed and brought back into school in the form of drama workshops. During the project, the children will be ‘in role’ as engineers and will work with diverse characters created by The Play House who will present engineering challenges, ethical and moral dilemmas for them to solve. The Universities will provide engineering and design spaces for the children to work in.

Participating children will explore the link between positive engineering mindsets and their own resilience and wellbeing. Focusing on the different needs of the citizens of the imagined cities in relation to Sustainable Development specifically:

* Good Health and Wellbeing
* Sustained Cities
* Communities

Co-construction of the STEM activity will take place with the children, teachers and engineers. Parents/carers will also be invited to take part in the project.

This project seeks to increase primary school children’s engagement in and understanding of engineering, raising their aspirations. It seeks to nurture children’s wellbeing and resilience. It also seeks to raise awareness of engineering's potential to impact positively on global sustainability. As part of the project, The Play House will also deliver a teachers' CPD for the participating schools. We aim for 1 teacher from each school (4 teachers in total) to be engaged to implement creative STEM teaching techniques into their practice.

**Imagine a city aims to:**

- Develop the children’s interest in engineering/STEM and demonstrate how engineering affects their lives and benefits society.

- Increase understanding and practice of problem-solving, creative thinking and team-work.

- Demonstrate that engineers can come from diverse backgrounds by providing diverse and inclusive role models.

- Demonstrate excitement for engineering and how engineering can be rewarding.

- Improve their self-confidence and resilience to overcome challenges.

- Supporting children's wellbeing which has been acutely affected by COVID-19.

- Engaging KS2 children in an exciting and innovative STEM activity.

- Inspire an interest in STEM subjects in the schools we work with.

- By holding the Imagine A City activity at UoW and UoB we are encouraging children to pursue careers in STEM from an early age.

**Parents/Carers:**

- Increase their awareness of the diversity, nature and impact of engineering.

- Demonstrate engineering is a viable career for young people from their communities.

- Encourages parents to learn more about STEM opportunities and STEM career choices open to young people.

\*Parents will be invited to co-construct activities within the workshops with their children. This will support the continuation of STEM career conversations outside of the school setting with their children, using our resource packs on STEM careers.\*

**Project Dates (for schools)**

Tues 14th Feb 23: Co-development ½ day, B’ham school A - (In school 9am-11am)

Tues 14th Feb: Co-development ½ day, B’ham school B - (In school 1pm -3pm)

Thus 16th Feb: Co-development day, Wolvo school A (In school 9am - 11am)

Mon 13th Feb: Co-development day, Wolvo school B (In school 1pm - 3pm)

Mon 13th March: Delivery in B'ham school A (In school all day)

Tues 14th March: Delivery in B'ham school B (In school all day)

Mon 20th March: Delivery in Wolvo school A (In school all day)

Tues 21st March: Delivery in Wolvo school B (In school all day)

Friday 24th March: Visit to UoW: Wolvo school A & B (PM visit, 12pm -3pm)

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March - July 2023 - Student engineers engage with school as STEM ambassadors

July 2023 - CPD with teachers

**The Play House contact for project:**

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