

ARE YOUR CHILDREN GETTING THE

SKILLS THEY NEED FOR THE FUTURE?

Technology is increasingly important in our everyday lives and it plays a significant role in the very functioning of our society. As the world changes it is important for our children to have a broad technological literacy that allows them to understand how technological developments impact on society, the economy, and the environment.

TECHNOLOGY IS AN ESSENTIAL PART of our children's general education, progressively developing their technological literacy and competence in using existing technologies and creating solutions to technological problems. It prepares students for tertiary education and technology-related careers, and most importantly it enables students to participate confidently as informed members of society.

Technology students might develop a website for local business, create animated movies, build a robot or develop new food products, and are given opportunities to work with business and industry and get professional practical experience.

Technology encourages students to participate in purposeful activities, enabling them to integrate their knowledge and skills from many learning areas in real and practical ways. They learn to be creative and innovative in generating ideas, to take responsibility, gain teamwork and communication skills and appreciate the value of contributing to the community both socially and economically.

Students in Ethan's Year 11 Materials Technology class each designed, built and race-tested a street luge.



A Year 10 ICT student working on a virus alert program.

These Year 5 & 6 children worked with an engineer to design and create a fountain for the entrance to their school's international office.



Five questions to ask your child's school about Technology education

1 What is my child being taught in Technology education?

The knowledge and skills to be confident in using a variety of ways to address needs and opportunities and to solve practical problems. Technology focuses on know-how as well as knowledge itself, gathering information from diverse sources.

2 What concepts in Technology is my child being exposed to?

Technology education explores the factors that influence choice, including culture and society, costs and benefits, aesthetics, and fitness for purpose. It empowers students to make informed choices in the use of technology and in responding to technological change.

3 How is my child's technological literacy being developed?

Technology education helps students achieve technological literacy through:

- **Technological Practice** – students examine current practice and undertake their own, developing a range of outcomes, including concepts, plans, briefs, models and products or systems.
- **Technological Knowledge** – students gain knowledge particular to technological enterprises and environments and find out why and how things work.
- **Nature of Technology** – students develop an understanding of Technology as a discipline and how it differs from others.

4 Is my child getting the right skills and knowledge for future study and employment?

Technology education equips your child with an enterprising and innovative attitude and skills and knowledge fundamental to a range of careers and tertiary study options, particularly in areas such as design, engineering, architecture, food science, biotechnology and ICT.

5 What can I do to support my child's learning in Technology?

Take an interest in what your child is learning in Technology at school by asking them questions about it. Talk to their teachers about how you can contribute to their Technology education. This may be through providing authentic problems to solve or supporting them or their teachers by providing access to the expert technological knowledge and skill that you have.



This tutu was designed and made by a Year 13 Fashion and Textiles Technology student.

This Year 13 Food Technology student developed a collection of recipe variations for De Paul House, an emergency housing and family support service.



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TO FIND OUT ABOUT TEACHING AND LEARNING IN TECHNOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND SCHOOLS