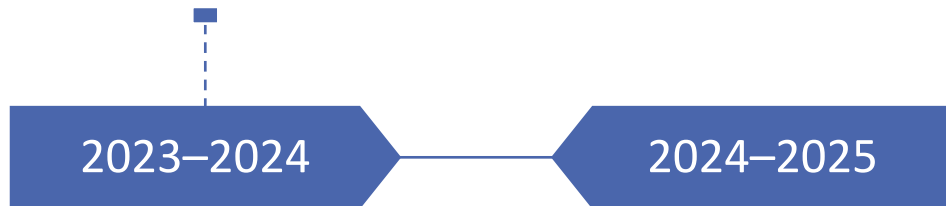


# Middle School Parent Meeting

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## Part 1:

Reflecting on the  
2023/2024 Academic Year



## Part 2:

Focusing on the  
2024/2025 Academic Year





# Our Middle School Approach

- Distinct Middle School approach:
  - Focus on **skill development** and maturity
  - Developing self-directed and self-regulated **learners who are engaged and participatory**
  - “Learning without limits”
- Different student energy than primary/ high school
- More than just academics

- Developing independent and collaborative learners who are prepared for future **academic and social-emotional** challenges
- Independent learning → Ready for High School
- Taking ownership of learning/ “active learning”
- Focus on building positive relationships

**(3-year project)**

## Part 1:

### Reflecting on the 2023/24 Academic Year

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#### **Strengths and successes**

- What students are doing well

#### **Challenges and obstacles**

- Areas of growth and development



# Strengths and Successes

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- Most students are working hard and are becoming strong independent learners
- Behavioural Policy
- Students taking risks in their learning
- MYP3 Students
  - Class Participation (e.g., discussion, questions)
  - Following instructions (verbal and written)
  - Turning in work on time
- Lots of room to grow



# Challenges and Obstacles

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- Communication/ developing a shared understanding of the approach and goals of our middle school
- Clearer communication on student expectations:
  - **Class Participation** (e.g., discussion, questions)
  - **Following instructions** (verbal and written)
  - **Turning in work on time**
- Behaviour/ kindness (some students)
- **Phone addictions.** Not enough time socializing and playing, especially outside.



## Part 2:

### Focusing on the 2024/25 Academic Year

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1. New phone policy
2. STEM Education
3. Student learning opportunities
4. Class teachers and dedicated middle school teachers
5. Parent “At Home” Programs



(Based on the **challenges and obstacles**  
we have observed this year)

## 1. New phone policy

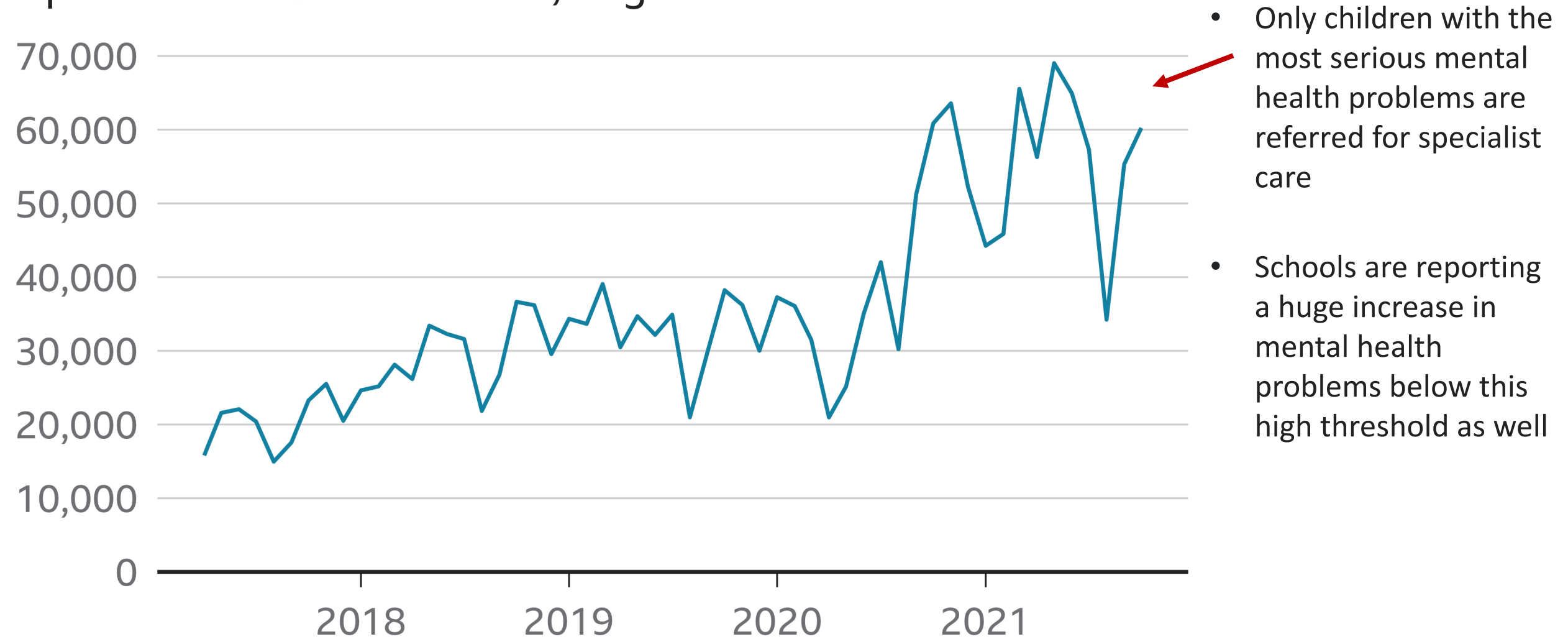
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- **New phone and technology policy for all Middle School students**
- Ideally, students' phones could be left at home
- If not, all phones/tablets/laptops etc will be **kept in students' lockers at all times**
- Students may use their phones **only with explicit teacher permission**, and with teacher supervision, for two reasons only:
  - Educational reasons
  - Contacting a parent, emergencies, etc.



# Referrals to children and young people's mental health services on the rise

April 2017 to October 2021, England





# Google Scholar

Prevalence of problematic **smartphone** usage and associated **mental health** outcomes amongst **children** and young people: a systematic review, meta-analysis and ...

[SY Sohn](#), [P Rees](#), [B Wildridge](#), [NJ Kalk](#), [B Carter](#) - *BMC psychiatry*, 2019 - Springer

... **Smartphone** ownership in **children** aged 11 and older is ubiquitous, and the prevalence of **mental health problems** peaks during the teenager years [2]. There is a public **health** ...

☆ Save [Cite](#) Cited by 636 [Related articles](#) [All 28 versions](#)

Impact of mobile phones and wireless devices use on **children** and adolescents' **mental health**: a systematic review

[BM Girela-Serrano](#), [ADV Spiers](#), [L Ruotong...](#) - *European child & ...*, 2022 - Springer

... these technologies affect **children** and adolescents' **mental health** in ... **smartphone**-related behaviour, termed as 'problematic **smartphone** use' may be responsible for poor **mental health** ...

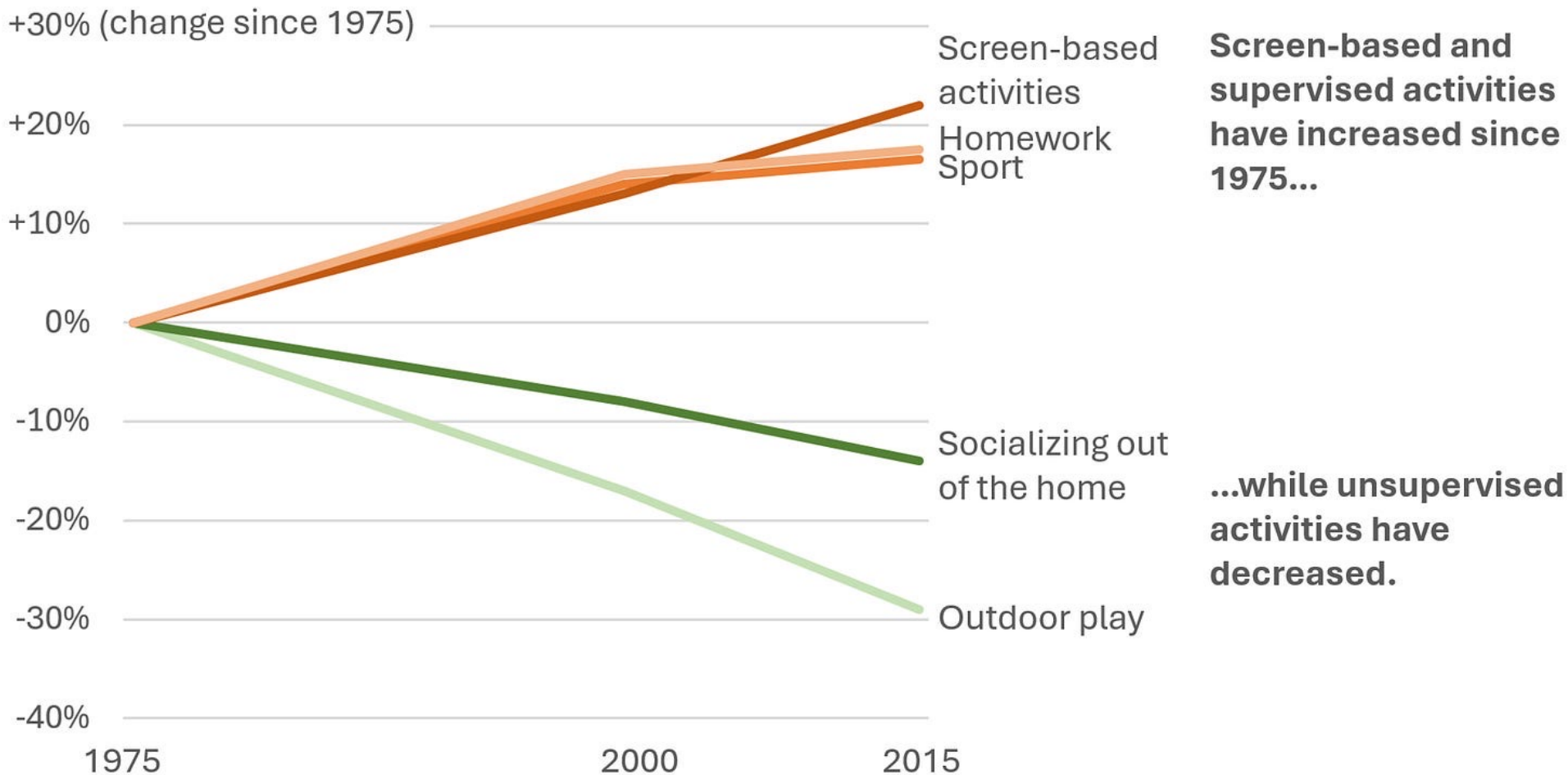
☆ Save [Cite](#) Cited by 34 [Related articles](#) [All 11 versions](#)

# A child's day: trends in time use in the UK from 1975 to 2015

Killian Mullan 

First published: 11 April 2018 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-4446.12369> | Citations: 39

## UK Children's Daily Time Use, 1975 - 2015



Press release

# Government launches crackdown on mobile phones in schools

Schools will receive new guidance on prohibiting mobile phone use during the school day.

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From: [Department for Education](#)

Published 19 February 2024

[Source: Gov.UK](#)

# UNESCO calls for schools around the world to ban smartphones in the classroom



Copyright Canva

By **Giulia Carbonaro**

Published on 26/07/2023 - 15:37 • Updated 16:32

## Academic Problems

- Misinformation
- Biased media
- Doomscrolling and attention issues
- More

## Social Emotional Problems

- Social media
- Social comparisons
- Cyberbullying
- More

# Final Thoughts on Phones

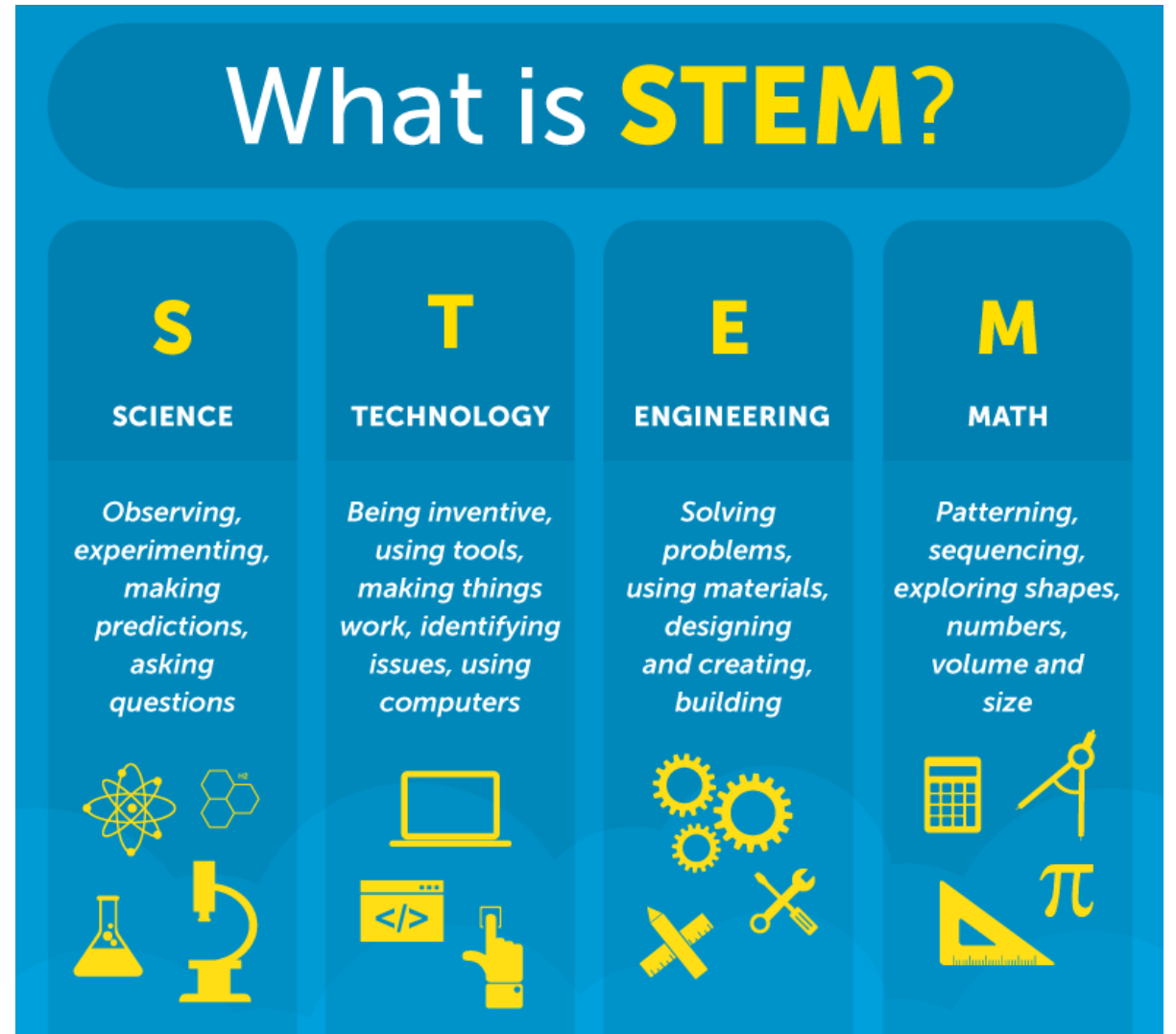
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- **Schools and governments around the world are banning phones in schools.**
- As a team-- parents and teachers-- we can make a big difference here.
- New games, sports, activities, spaces for students... indoor and outdoor options
- Chromebooks/ laptops for all students – either from school or from home
- Phone violations will follow the EISB Behaviour Policy



## 2. STEM Education

- STEM education is a teaching approach that combines Science, Tech, Engineering, and Math
- Middle School students will do **integrated projects in Science, Math, and Design**
- STEM education helps students develop:
  - Critical thinking and problem solving
  - Research skills and scientific literacy
  - Creativity and innovation
  - Collaboration and teamwork
  - Enhances student interest in learning
  - Knowledge and skills transfer



# STEM Project Example

(MYP 2)

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## Project:

Materials Science and Sustainable Design Challenge

## Project Description:

Students will explore the environmental impact of different materials and investigate sustainable alternatives such as recycled, renewable, or biodegradable materials. They will then choose a real-world problem or opportunity related to sustainable materials usage and design innovative products to address it. Using their understanding of Math, Science, and Design, students will develop prototypes of their products, considering factors such as material properties and manufacturing processes. Throughout the project, students will exercise creativity, critical thinking, and systems thinking to propose novel solutions to pressing environmental challenges.

## Math:

Calculation with positive rational and decimal numbers  
Algebraic manipulation  
Multiplying single brackets and expanding products  
Area, perimeter, and volume calculations  
Ratio and proportion  
Percentage increase and decrease

## Science:

States of matter and properties of materials  
Transformation between states of matter  
Chemical properties of metals and nonmetals  
Chemical bonds  
Acids and bases  
Chemical reactions  
Precipitation reactions  
Ionic equations

## Design:

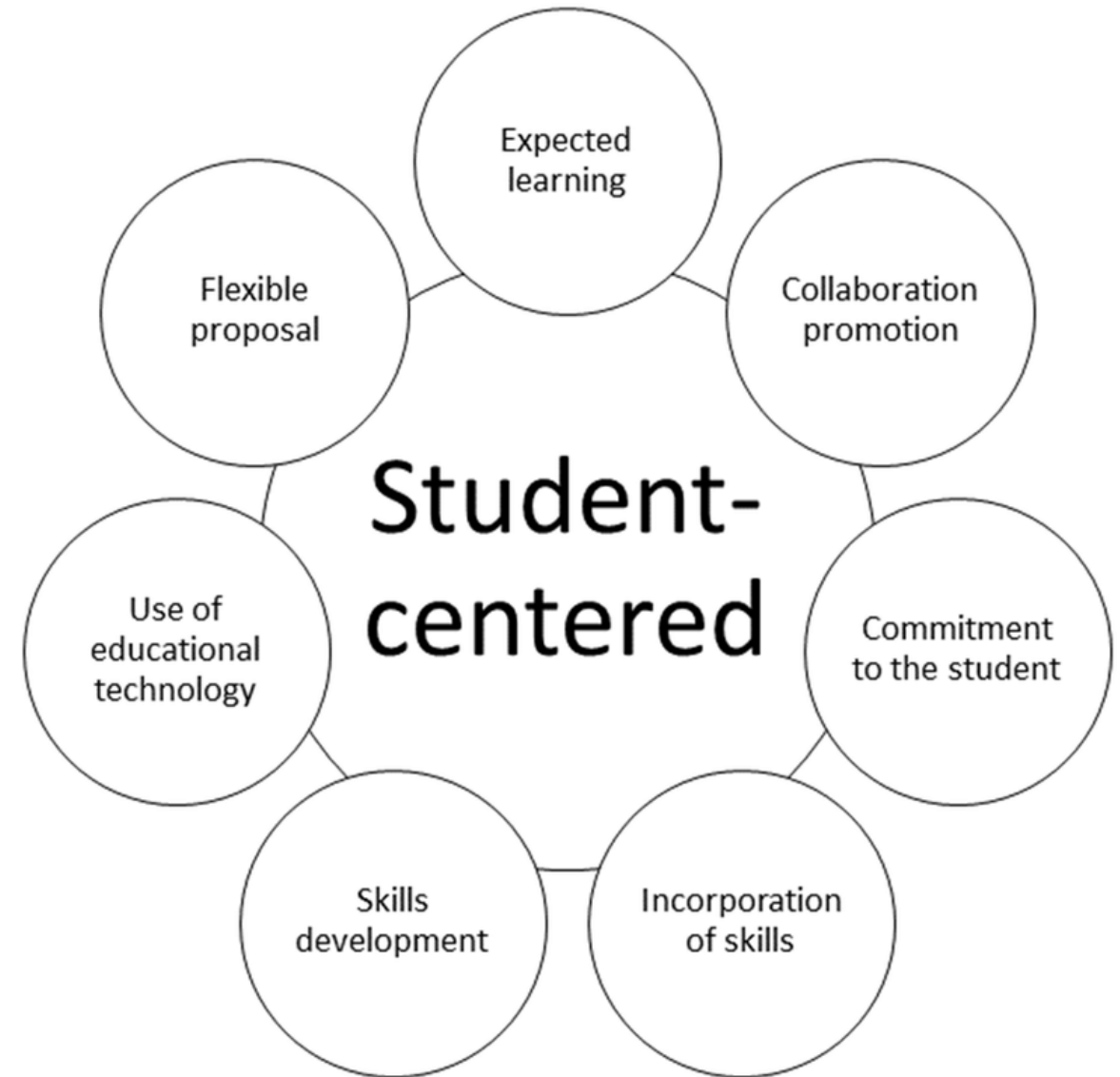
Sustainable design principles  
Material selection and properties  
Prototype development  
Testing and optimization  
Presentation and communication skills

- **Same curriculum as before, but now with unified projects.**
- This allows the students to go further and deeper in their learning.
- It also helps students engage and remember/absorb the material better.

### 3. Student learning opportunities

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- Independent projects with choice
- Pair/group work
- Class debates
- Interviews, podcasts
- Individual/group presentations
- Field trips and camp trips
- Personalized summative projects with real-world connections that are both relevant and meaningful to the student





### 3. Student learning opportunities .... what's new?

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- Service learning trips (2-3 days)
- STEM
- Creative Performance Class
- More guest speakers and real-world connections
- “Students in the driver’s seat”
  - Teacher as a facilitator  
(independent learning with strong teacher guidance)

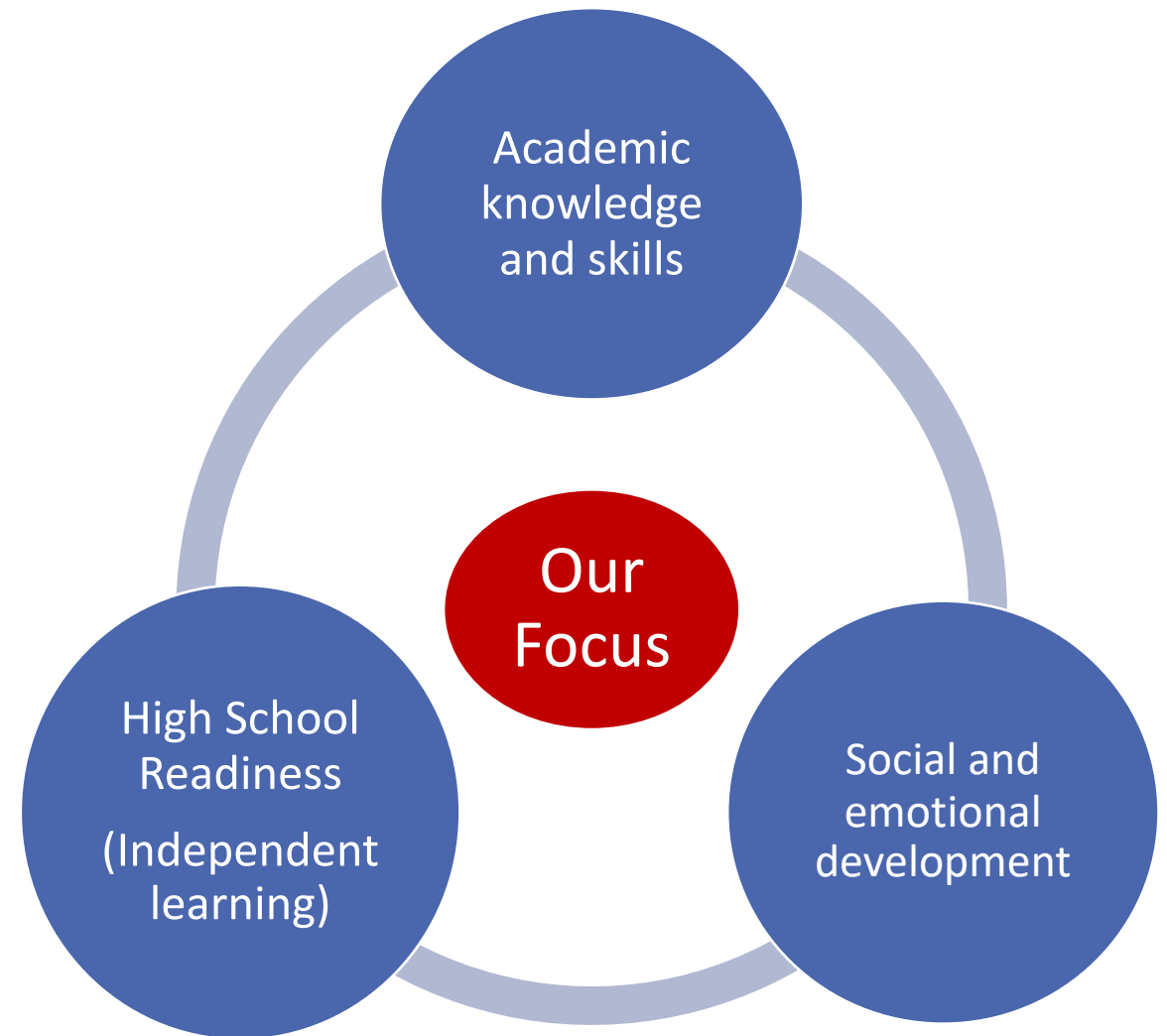


## 4. Class teachers and dedicated middle school teachers

- Class Teachers trained and involved as the main focal point for your child's development at school
- The Class Teachers and I meet regularly to discuss individual student progress/development
- Class Teachers are your first line of support
- During registration, and throughout the day, Class Teachers refer to the **EISB Behavioural Policy**:

Uniforms	Phones	Chips	Other
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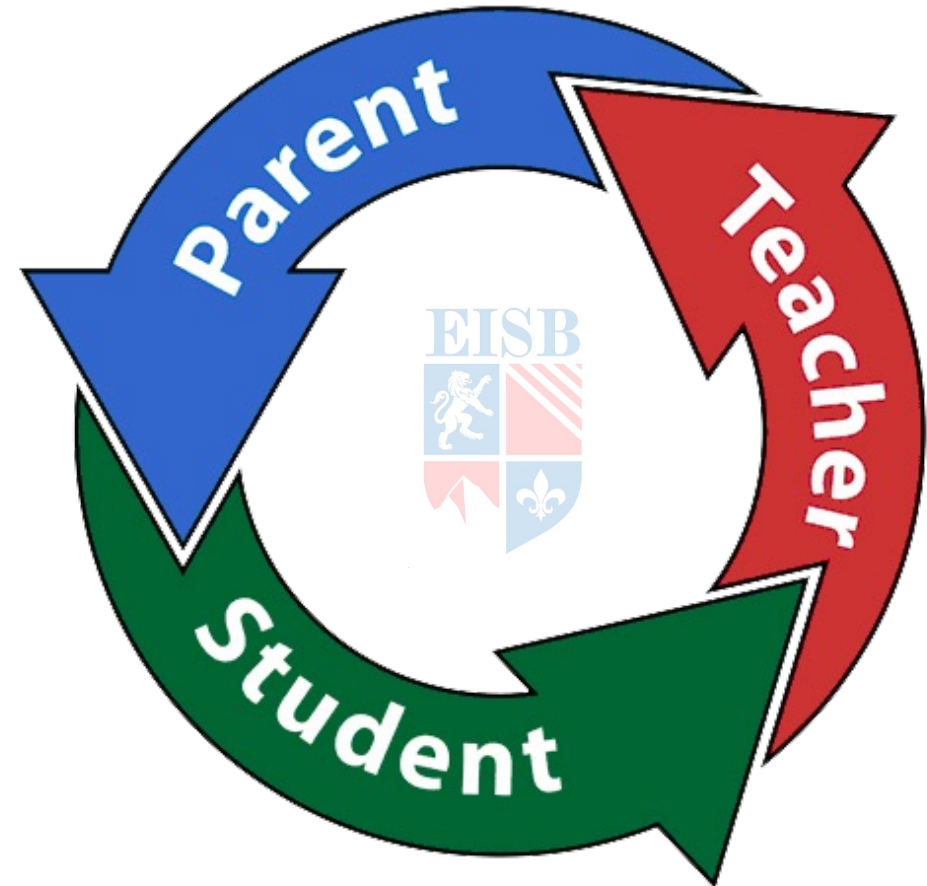
- Dedicated Middle School Teachers



## 5. Parent “At Home” Program

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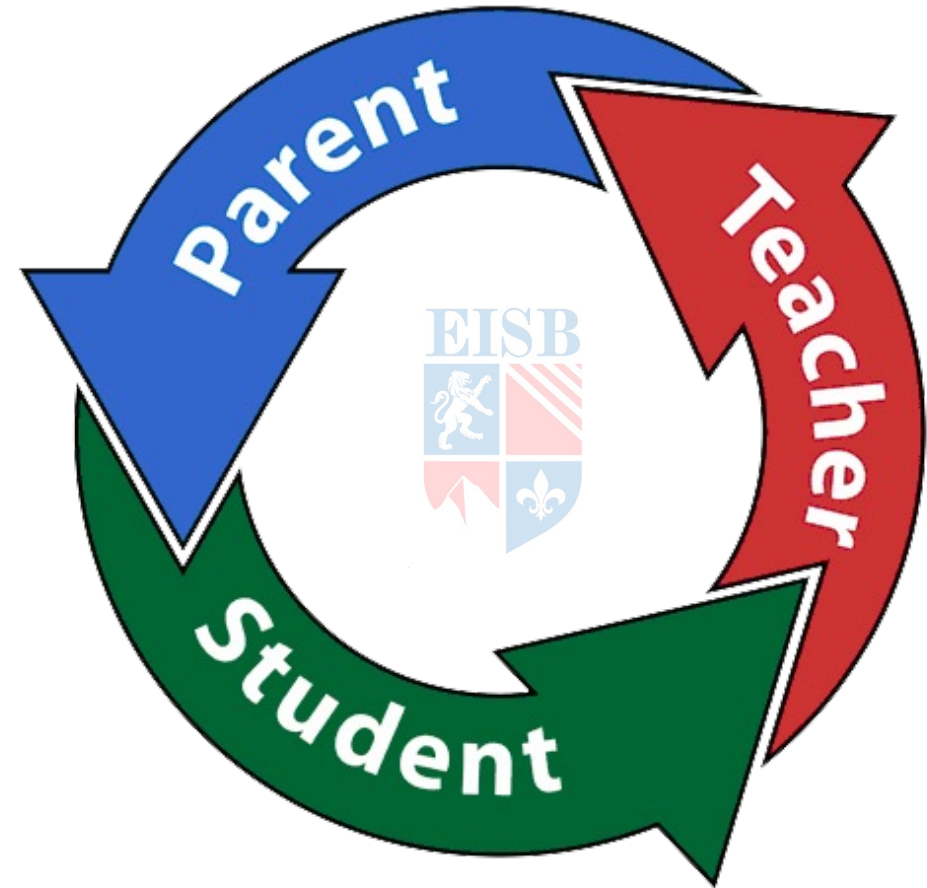
- Program designed to help you better support your child(ren) outside of school
- Includes an information package, resources, trainings, and workshops.
- Goal is to align our approaches... so that parents and teachers are on the same page and can provide **consistent support for students both in and out of school**
- Class Teachers will be the main point of contact for this



## 5. “At Home” Program - *Examples*

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- Not just helping/ doing their homework for them. Instead, focus on guiding and facilitating **skill development**.
- **Encourage independent learning**. Give guidance as needed (but not giving them the answers).
- If your child is timid or doesn't participate a lot, you can help them come up with questions to ask during class time, etc.



# Supporting our Middle School Students as a Team

Class Teachers  
All Middle School Teachers  
Head of Middle School

Parents  
School Psychologist (Ms. Zuzana Simkova)  
Education Director (Mr. Jaymes Regualos)

Thank you for your attention.



## Questions, Feedback, and Input are Appreciated

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- Ideas and strategies to help solidify the phone policy... at-home and/or at-school strategies?
- Service-learning trip ideas?
- Other?



### How to get in touch?

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Email: [beadle@eisbratislava.org](mailto:beadle@eisbratislava.org)