

STEM MAD National 2026

Project Criteria – Primary

The following criteria have been developed to guide teachers and students in project development.

Design process

- Demonstrates a clear process towards designing a solution that *Makes A Difference* as guided by the following design thinking stages:
1) Empathise 2) Define 3) Ideate 4) Prototype 5) Test 6) Share & Explain
- Documents research, reflections, and evaluations of each stage of the design process

Innovation

- Identifies the unique/novel aspects of a problem that exists in the real-world
- Demonstrates an innovative approach to problem solving
- Develops interesting, engaging, and imaginative solutions to the problem

STEM disciplinary understandings & skills

- Demonstrates understanding of the scientific and mathematical concepts that informed the design of the solution and/or product and where these apply in the project
- Integrates skills from across the STEM disciplines and general capabilities as outlined by the relevant sections of the Australian Curriculum
- Uses engineering principles in the process of designing a solution to the problem

Making A Difference (MAD)

Identifies the way the solution and/or product intends to *Make A Difference* by addressing one or more of the following themes: Service, Environment, and Product, through the lens of Catholic stewardship, solidarity, common good, citizenship, humanity, and wellbeing.

Communication

- Creates a pitch video that is a maximum of 2.5 minutes in length
- Demonstrates capacities to articulate their learning through the journey from conception to showcase including the design process
- Uses visual communication principles to optimise engagement, including creative use of the screen space in the pitch video
- Selects and uses appropriate digital tools to create the pitch video
- Pitch video includes appropriate visuals and has high sound quality



- Presentation of key elements of the project, including demonstration of the prototype (product/solution)

Teamwork

- Each team has up to 4 members
- All team members contribute to the project and pitch video