

Delivering Defence Nuclear Enterprise EKO STEM workshops, 2023 to 2026

EKO delivery partner, 2023 to 2026

Four years of funded, Defence-themed STEM workshops in schools across three English regions: every contracted day delivered, two contract years finished months ahead of schedule, and more students seeing a future in STEM.

In brief: EKO (Engagement, Knowledge and Opportunities) is the Ministry of Defence's Defence Nuclear Enterprise STEM programme for schools. Hyett Education delivered EKO school-workshop contracts from a 2023 pilot to July 2026: 27,307 students over 301 delivery days, with every contracted day delivered. In 2025/26, 10,631 students in the Midlands and South West took part.

This case study describes completed delivery. Current funded availability is confirmed for each opportunity.

Official programme sites: [Defence Nuclear Enterprise](#) · [EKO programme](#)


27,307

students in EKO school workshops

301

school delivery days, 2023 to 2026

100%

of contracted days delivered

41.4%

eligible for free school meals (2025/26)

THE BRIEF

Bring hands-on STEM linked to Defence and the nuclear sector to 120 schools a year across two large regions, with 30% of delivery in secondary schools and a focus on students under-represented in STEM.

WHAT WE DID

Found and booked every school ourselves, designed five Defence-themed workshops, brought STEM Ambassadors into classrooms and evaluated every session before and after.

THE RESULT

Every contracted day delivered in every year and, in 2025/26, students who can see themselves in a STEM career up from 58.2% to 80%, and 100% of schools happy with our team.

KEY FACTS: EKO SCHOOL-WORKSHOP CONTRACTS, 2023 TO 2026

Figure	What it measures	Scope and source
27,307	students in EKO school workshops	Pilot (2023) to 2025/26; sum of four reports submitted to the Defence Nuclear Enterprise
301	school delivery days, every contracted day delivered	Pilot to 2025/26; same reports
10,631	students in 121 delivery days	2025/26 Midlands and South West contract; End of Year Report, 28 July 2026
107 of 120	schools booked by the end of November, the first term	2025/26; every school found and booked by Hyett Education
41.4%	of students eligible for free school meals	2025/26; demographic data collected from every school
58.2% to 80%	students who can see themselves in a STEM career, before and after	2025/26 pre- and post-session surveys
97%	of teachers gave our facilitators the top rating	350 teacher feedback forms, October 2024 to August 2026
134	young people aged 8 to 14 at two EKO summer holiday clubs	Plymouth and Barrow-in-Furness, summer 2025

"Your expertise and funded support make a real difference in broadening our students' horizons and ensuring STEM feels both achievable and inspiring."

Prince Albert High School, Birmingham

Planning a STEM programme for schools?

Tell us who you want to reach and where. We will show you how we would recruit the schools, design the workshops and report the impact.

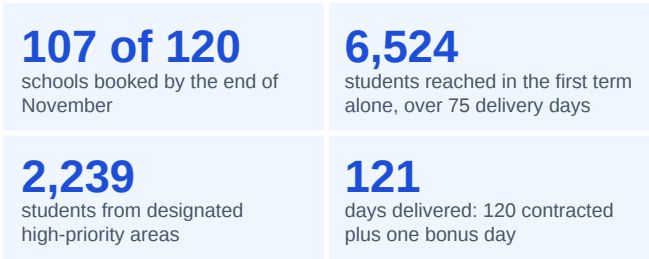
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DELIVERY

Every school found and booked by us

A funded place is only valuable if it reaches the right school. We ran the whole recruitment ourselves: identifying eligible schools, contacting them, agreeing dates and handling the pre-visit paperwork.

Recruitment at a glance, 2025/26

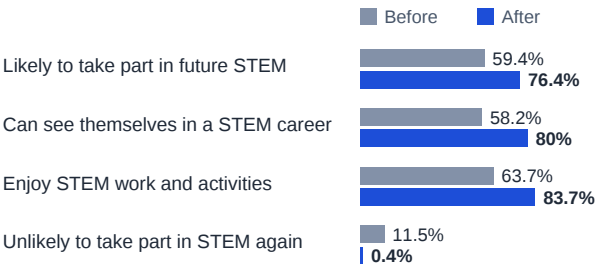


Source: EKO End of Year Report 2025/26 and Q1 evaluation report.

MEASURED IMPACT

Did the workshops change students' views of STEM?

Yes. Students completed a short survey before and after every workshop, on iPads that work offline in any school, and positive agreement rose on every question.



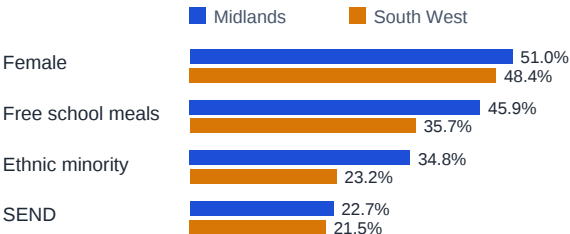
Source: EKO End of Year Report 2025/26 (student surveys, all 2025/26 workshops).

97%	Teachers: top rating for our facilitators
95%	Teachers: very likely to rebook
97.8%	Teachers: resources "very good"
90.7%	Students: rated the workshop positively

Sources: 350 teacher forms, October 2024 to August 2026; EKO End of Year Report 2025/26.

WHO TOOK PART

Reaching students under-represented in STEM



Source: EKO End of Year Report 2025/26.

2023 TO 2026

How the contract grew from pilot to two regions

Year	Regions	Days	Students
2023 pilot	Plymouth and Devonport, Barrow-in-Furness	10	980
2023/24	Midlands and North of England	70	6,440
2024/25	Midlands and South West	100	9,256
2025/26	Midlands and South West	121	10,631

Sources: DNE Pilot Evaluation (November 2023), Summative Report 2023/24, End of Year Reports 2024/25 and 2025/26.

THE WORKSHOPS

Five Defence-themed workshops

- Robotics and coding: Build a robot, code it round a course, then re-engineer it for a mission such as moving a nuclear waste barrel.
- Drone coding: Code a flight pattern in blocks or Swift and fly it along themed routes, learning control, precision and testing.
- Cybersecurity: Explore the history of cryptography, encrypt messages and images in our own software, then crack a "Submarine SOS" safe as a team.
- AI and machine learning: Train a vision model to identify sea-going vessels, explore confidence and false positives, and debate automated responses.
- 3D design: Design components in 3D modelling software and collaborate on a shared engineering challenge, from screen to 3D print.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Careers events and summer holiday clubs

15 STEM Ambassadors from engineering, cybersecurity and software development joined 2025/26 workshops, so students could ask people in these careers what the work is really like.

Every year we also ran the EKO stand at national careers events, alongside Defence Nuclear Enterprise partners, with robots and hands-on challenges before conversations about apprenticeship and graduate routes.

EKO holiday clubs, summer 2025: 134 young people aged 8 to 14; 174 children applied for places; 56 local schools contacted; 100% of parents would recommend it.

ACCOUNTABILITY

How we evaluated and reported to the funder

- Quarterly evaluation reports and review meetings, tracking bookings, delivery and targets.
- A school-by-school register with dates, workshops, attendance and demographic data.
- Pre- and post-session student surveys and on-the-day teacher feedback: 3,489 student and 350 teacher forms since October 2024.
- A written evaluation after every careers event.

Social value mapping: PPN 002 Social Value Model, Outcome 2: Skills for growth; PPN 002 Social Value Model, Outcome 7: Creating a pipeline of opportunities; UN Sustainable Development Goals, SDG 4 Quality Education and SDG 5 Gender Equality. Our mapping, not independent assurance. No proxy values are claimed.