

Getting Started with 3D Printing in the Classroom

Why 3D Printing Matters in Education

3D printing provides a hands-on, engaging way for students to learn STEM subjects. It bridges theory and practice, helping students understand complex concepts in science, maths, and design through physical models and prototypes.

Choosing the Right Equipment

For beginners, we recommend choosing a reliable FDM printer that is easy to maintain and affordable. Look for models with a large support community, good documentation, and easy-to-use software. We don't recommend Resin printers, as a first choice, as whilst they offer high detail, they require more safety and cleanup considerations, so we recommend doing your research first.

Essential Skills for Teachers and Students

Basic skills include 3D modelling (CAD), understanding printer operation, and problem-solving. Software like Tinkercad or Fusion 360 is accessible for schools. Students can learn to design, iterate, and evaluate their creation using critical thinking and teamwork.



Curriculum Integration

3D printing can be used in Design & Technology, Science, Maths, Geography, and even History. Design projects, model creation, and problem-solving tasks help bring subjects to life and increase engagement.

Support and Training

Tidewater 3D offers school packages that include printer setup, training for staff, and student workshops. Ongoing technical support ensures minimal downtime and confident use across your teaching team.

Next Steps

Start by identifying where 3D printing fits in your curriculum. Choose equipment that matches your needs and invest in staff training. Contact Tidewater 3D for tailored advice and resources designed to help your school succeed with 3D printing.

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