



## **Information for Parents**

The Longlevens Library Code Club is a free club for 9 to 13 year-olds to learn computer programming skills. The club can also accept school children outside this age range if they have the interest and willingness to learn.

The club is run by unpaid volunteers using facilities provided by the Gloucestershire County Council Library Service. It started in October 2015 and is part of the international Code Club programme run by the Raspberry Pi Foundation, a UK registered charity. (See <https://codeclub.org>)

### **Computers and Projects**

The club uses Raspberry Pi computers connected to the library's wifi, computer screens, keyboards and mice. These are small but capable computers that are equipped with various programming applications. The club also uses Micro Bit computers including two which can be used for robotic projects. Further robotic and programmable devices are being acquired as funds permit.

The club has a wide variety of projects available for children to choose, with easy to follow step by step guides that allow them to create games, animations and web pages in various computer languages including Scratch, HTML, Javascript and Python. Scratch is a visual programming language specially designed for children and is often used in schools. It enables computer programs to be created with minimal typing and without any previous programming experience.

There are seven computer workstations in the library which means when there is high attendance, some children will need to work in pairs. The club does its best to pair children up based on ability and the volunteers often see children benefit by learning from each other. If a child would prefer to work on their own and they can bring in a laptop or similar, then this can be accommodated.

### **The Volunteers**

The volunteers have a wide variety of experience and skills, with many decades of computer programming between them. Most of them are STEM Ambassadors who undertake voluntary work to encourage children into the world of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

To ensure compliance with child safeguarding standards, the club will not run without at least one fully Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checked volunteer in attendance. STEM Ambassadors are checked, other volunteers are checked or are in the process of applying to becoming checked.

Parents do not need to remain present during club sessions but please return promptly to collect your child at the end. Please let the volunteers know if your child has any special needs that may need to be catered for during the one hour sessions.

### **Booking information**

The club normally operates every Saturday during local school term times, between 11:30am and 12:30pm. Facilities limit the club to 14 children each week. To check dates and book places, search for "Longlevens Code Club" on Eventbrite at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/>

Or click "**Discover activities in a library near you :: Eventbrite**" on the Longlevens Library website at:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries/find-a-library/longlevens-library/>

Please note children can only be accommodated on the day if there are places remaining free on Eventbrite. After booking, if your child cannot attend for any reason, please cancel their booking as soon as possible so that another child may take their place.

### **Feedback**

The club is always looking for ways to improve. If you have any questions, complaints or suggestions, please speak with any of the volunteers or library staff. Alternatively please write them down on the reverse side of this sheet and hand in at the main desk inside the library, providing contact details if you wish to have a response.