



THE DUKE OF
EDINBURGH'S AWARD



What is the DofE?

- For the past seven decades, The D of E Award Scheme has inspired and transformed the lives of millions of young people from all walks of life. From volunteering to physical activities, life skills to expeditions, achieving a DofE Award is a passport to a brighter future, valued by employers and universities.
- The D of E Awards scheme is the world's leading youth achievement award.

What are the benefits of a Duke of Edinburgh Award?

- An opportunity to work with other people and to get a qualification by doing things that you enjoy
- On the way to achieving your award you will be developing skills in teamwork, independence, responsibility and resilience. These are all qualities that employers look for in a selection process
- You learn new skills and it's good fun!

Your DofE programme is a real adventure.
It doesn't matter who you are or where you're from.
You just need to be aged between 14 and 24.

You can do DofE programmes at three levels:

- **Bronze** (aged 14+)
- **Silver** (aged 15+)
- **Gold** (aged 16+)

...which lead to a Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

You achieve an Award by completing a personal programme of activities in four sections:

- **Volunteering:** undertaking service to individuals or the community.
- **Physical:** improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities.
- **Skills:** developing practical and social skills and personal interests.
- **Expedition:** planning, training for and completion of an adventurous journey in the UK or abroad.
- At Gold level, you must do an additional **Residential** section, which involves working and staying away from home doing a shared activity.

Time and age requirements

Level:	Minimum period of participation by:	
	Direct entrants	Previous level Award holders
Bronze	6 months	n/a
Silver	12 months	6 months
Gold	18 months	12 months

Direct entrants are young people starting their DofE programme at either Silver or Gold level, who have not achieved the previous level of Award.

Bronze Award (14+ years old)

Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition
3 months	3 months	3 months	Plan, train for and complete a 2 day, 1 night expedition

*All participants must undertake a **further** 3 months in the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section.*

Choosing Activities

There is a massive choice of activities that count towards DofE programmes.

- You need to choose activities you are going to enjoy.
- Activities could be something that you are already doing or perhaps one you've always wanted to try.

- On completion of each section participants must obtain an assessors report. They are also encouraged to collect other evidence. The student then loads this onto their eDofE account and submits it.
- Once all required evidence for the award has been submitted then this goes to our licensing organisation who give final approval

What Happens At William Howard School?

- You will be able to start the Bronze Award in year 9 after the May half term holiday
- We will run a number of sessions in school time in order to help you to achieve your award. These will include some time helping you to decide on the activities that you want to do as well as training you in the necessary skills to complete your expedition.
- Expedition training will include first aid, navigation and camp-craft.

- You will complete 2 expeditions. The first is a training expedition and will take place in the autumn term. The second is your qualifying expedition which will take place in the spring term.

- Completing your Bronze D of E Award is great fun but it is also a commitment. You will need to invest time and energy in the activities that you choose to do
- You decide whether to work on a section for 3 or 6 months. You should plan to average at least 1 hour each week over this time period.
- You need to complete at least one of your sections before the practice expedition and the other 2 before the qualifying expedition

Does it cost anything?

For Bronze this year we estimate the following expenses;

- Registration- £32
- Training – (including First Aid) £45
- Practice Expedition £35
- Qualifying Expedition £45
- Refundable equipment deposit £20

These fees are to cover the costs that we incur such as campsite fees, transport, extra instructors, etc.

- We don't want to exclude anyone from the scheme because they can't afford it. If you want to take part but money is a problem then send me an email. There is a fund that you can apply to for support and I will send you the application forms.

The school is able to provide most of the clothing and equipment required for expeditions including;

Rucksacks

Tents

Stoves

Fuel

Maps Compasses

Sleeping bags

Waterproofs

What Will I Need to Buy?

- Participants will only need suitable warm clothing and boots although most also provide their own waterproof jackets and trousers.
- You will also need to provide food for the expeditions
- Once you have registered you will receive a discount card. There are a number of outdoor shops that support this including Go Outdoors and Cotswold. They give a discount of 15%

What Do I Do Next?

- If you want to sign up then please hand in your slip at the end of this session. You should also take a registration form home with you.
- You will need to return the form along with an initial payment of £77 to cover the registration and training costs. The deadline for this is Friday 7th June. Further payments will be requested prior to each expedition
- Payments should ideally be made through parent pay

Need to know more?

- Look on the D of E website www.dofe.org