

Costs

To take part in the DofE, participants pay a nominal fee for a *Welcome Pack*, which includes their DofE Participation Place. This fee is their contribution towards the Charity's costs in running their DofE programme.



The fee represents a very small proportion of the overall cost of participation/running the DofE, which is supported by the funds raised by the DofE Charity. The current charge for participation can be found at www.DofE.org/go/costs.

Your Licensed Organisation and/or centre may add a small administration fee to this amount and they **must** explain this clearly to you. There will also be costs for the activities and expedition, depending on what is chosen.

Supervision

DofE Leaders and Expedition Supervisors undergo safeguarding and other checks and training through their Licensed Organisation to ensure young people have access to a high quality programme.

Can you help?

Whatever activities your child has chosen to pursue for their DofE programme, they will need your support and guidance to help them through. You may also need to encourage them to keep their eDofE pages up-to-date.

You may feel that you have other skills to offer. In which case, why not volunteer with your local DofE group?

- Talk to your local DofE Leader/Co-ordinator
- Contact a Licensed Organisation via www.DofE.org/takepart
- Visit our website: www.DofE.org
- Email us: info@DofE.org

"I love the core principles of the DofE, which yell out 'access and achievement for all'. We all grow, develop and mature at different stages, and the DofE recognises this – allowing young people to achieve without competitive pressures."
Jenny St. John, Parent

Local contact:

For more detailed information visit: www.DofE.org/parents or ask for the *Parent's guide*



www.facebook.com/theDofE

[@DofE #DofE](https://www.twitter.com/DofE)



Developing young people for life and work



Information for parents and carers

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) develops young people for life and work. It helps them to fulfil their potential and have a brighter future. For many young people, the impact can be life-changing.

What is the DofE?

DofE programmes consist of non-competitive voluntary activities for young people. Anyone aged between 14 and 24 can do a DofE programme.

There are three levels of DofE programme which require increasingly more time and commitment from young people:

■ **Bronze:** start at 14+ years old

■ **Silver:** start at 15+ years old

■ **Gold:** start at 16+ years old.



With four sections (five at Gold level), there are hundreds of activities that young people can choose to do:

■ **Volunteering** From helping at an after-school kids club or running an awareness campaign to raising money for a charity or working on a recycling project, young people can get out and help others.

■ **Physical** From football to yoga, swimming to skateboarding, participants take part in a sport, dance or fitness activity, showing improvement over time.

■ **Skills** Participants learn a new skill or develop existing talents. With choices from DJing and science to drama and zoology, the sky's the limit!

■ **Expedition** Through planning, training for and completing an adventurous journey in the UK or abroad, young people develop initiative and a spirit of adventure and discovery.

■ **Residential** (Gold level only) Participants take part in a shared activity away from home with people they don't know. For example: a conservation holiday, a language course or helping on a kids activity camp...

Participants keep track of their progress and get their Awards approved by their Leaders through our online record keeping system, eDofE.

Where to do the DofE

DofE programmes are delivered under licence by over 400 partners (Licensed Organisations) who offer it through DofE centres from youth clubs, schools and colleges, voluntary organisations, to young offender institutions and businesses.

To find out where the DofE is run near you, ask your child's teacher or youth leader, or go to www.DofE.org/takepart.

Why should they do their DofE?

When your child does their DofE programme they'll develop the skills and attitudes they need to help them develop as rounded, confident adults. Qualities that colleges, universities and employers are attracted to.

So when you support your child's pursuit of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award, you're investing in their future.

You can expect to see your child develop in the following areas as they work through their DofE programme:

- Self-belief and self-confidence
- A sense of identity and responsibility
- Initiative
- A real awareness of their strengths
- New talents and abilities
- The ability to plan and use time effectively
- The ability to learn from and give to others in the community
- New friendships
- Problem solving, presentation and communication skills
- Leadership and teamworking skills.



"Here at British Gas we believe the DofE makes young people more employable, developing the skills we need in our workforce – including a positive attitude, tenacity, and a good work ethic."

Angela Williams
HR Director, British Gas.

How long does it take?

Each section must be done for a minimum period of time. Whilst timescales are given in months, participants need to give a regular commitment averaging at least an hour a week during this time. To achieve an Award young people must show persistence, commitment and personal development.

They may easily fit their DofE activities around their school, college or work commitments, carrying them out in their own personal time.

They may choose to use an activity they are already doing as a DofE activity – or go for something new.

- **Bronze:** usually takes around 6-9 months to complete.
- **Silver:** usually takes around 6-12 months to complete.
- **Gold:** usually takes 12-18 months to complete.

(Times are reduced if young people have achieved the previous level of Award).