

# Duke of Edinburgh Award



## DofE Information Booklet

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## About the award

The award delivers three levels programme: Bronze, Silver and Gold.

## Award Sections

The DofE programme has four sections to complete for each level: Volunteering, Physical, Skills, and Expedition. In order to complete the Gold level, participants have to complete a Residential section.

The duration to complete each section varies, depending on the award level.

<b>Bronze (14+)</b> Those who aren't 14 yet but are in the school year in which their peer group turn 14 may be able to start a Bronze DofE programme.				
Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition	
3 months	3 months	3 months	Plan, train for and complete a 2 day, 1 night expedition	
Participants must also undertake a further three months in the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section.				
<b>Silver (15+)</b> Those who aren't 15 yet, but are in the school year in which their peer group turn 15 may be able to start a Silver DofE programme.				
Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition	
6 months	One for 6 months / one for 3 months		Plan, train for and complete a 3 day, 2 night expedition	
If participants haven't achieved their Bronze Award they must undertake a further 6 months in Volunteering or the longer of their Physical or Skills section.				
<b>Gold (16+)</b>				
Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition	Residential
12 months	One for 12 months / one for 6 months		Plan, train for and complete a 4 day, 3 night expedition	Undertake a shared activity in a residential setting away from home for 5 days and 4 nights
If participants have not achieved their Silver Award they must undertake a further 6 months in Volunteering or the longer of their Physical or Skills section.				

In order to achieve their awards, participants need to demonstrate dedication and commitment. Therefore, the students are to complete at least one hour a week of each activity for the indicated duration of each section.

## Volunteering

Here is a map for you to help you find volunteering opportunities.

[https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1SElhUjKXRJS1e\\_xz\\_Pgr2mDwqbBvB9I&usp=sharing](https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1SElhUjKXRJS1e_xz_Pgr2mDwqbBvB9I&usp=sharing).

## Residential (Gold only)

This section refers only to the Gold participants and involves you to develop a shared activity or specific activity with people you don't know away from home and in a familiar

environment for 5 days and 4 nights. Students will have to organise this section themselves. For more information about residential opportunities follow the link below:

<https://www.dofe.org/opportunity-finder/opportunity-for-dofe-participant/?paged=1>

For more information about the sections please visit:

<https://www.dofe.org/do/sections/>

### **Assessors' Report**

Physical, Skills and Volunteering sections are also organised by the students. Once they have decided their sections, registered and completed them, they will request an assessor report. The assessor can be anyone over the age of 18, that is not family related to the participants. For more information about the assessor report, visit:

<https://www.dofe.org/assessor/>

Expedition is organised by an external agency called School of Outdoors and they will sign off the reports for expedition section.

### **Signing up for DofE**

The launch and enrolment onto the DofE programme at Buckingham School takes place at the beginning of the academic year, with the deadline at the end of October. If you wish to enroll your child to the programme outside of September-October period, you will have to wait until next academic year.

After the sign up and the payment deadline have passed, the DofE manager of the school will register the students with the Duke of Edinburgh online platform. The students will then be provided with their eDofE log in details. After their first log in, the students will have to record their personal details including their home address, and a welcome pack will be sent to that address.

### **Cost**

**The total cost for the award is shown in the following table:**

<b>2024-2025</b>	<b>Bronze</b>	<b>Silver</b>	<b>Gold</b>
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>£250</b>	<b>£385</b>	<b>£507</b>

The cost includes the DofE sign up fee, expedition fee, parent mail fee, all other administration costs and the transportation for some expeditions.

## The Expedition

### Dates

The confirmed dates for the 2024-25 expeditions are as follows. All the expedition dates are compulsory. More information will be available directly from the School of Outdoors portal, after signing up.

Award	Expedition Stage	Confirmed Dates	Location	Transport
Bronze	Training	13 Feb-13 Feb 2025	Buckingham School	School bus
	Practice Expedition	16 May-17 May 2025	Buckinghamshire	Own transport
	Qualifying Expedition	21 Jun-22 Jun 2025	Buckinghamshire	Own Transport
Silver	Training	31 Jan-31 Jan 2025	Buckingham School	School Transport
	Practice Expedition	2 May-4 May 2025	Buckinghamshire	Own Transport
	Qualifying Expedition	21 Jul- 23 Jul 2025	Dorset	Coach/
Gold	Training	31 Jan-31 Jan	Buckingham School	School Bus
	Practical training	16 Mar-16 Mar 2025	Oxfordshire	Own Transport
	Practice Expedition	30-may- 01 Jun 2025	Wales	School minibus
	Qualifying Expedition	11 Jul- 15 Jul 2025	Wales	School minibus

\*detailed location can be found through School of Outdoors portal

## **Behaviour**

During expedition events students will be expected to behave exemplary, in accordance with the Buckingham School Behaviour Policy

[Buckingham School Policies](#)

## **Phones**

Phones are allowed to be taken to expeditions apart from 1 phone per team. All other phones must be left at home. If any other non-authorised phones are found, the student and their team are at risk of failing their expedition section and will need to arrange another expedition at an additional cost to parents. If a team needs to take pictures to document their journey as part of their expedition goal, they must arrange to take a camera, not a phone.

## **Teams**

Expedition groups or the walking teams must be made up of 7 people. This number of people is split between 2 or 3 tent groups, based on their biological sex. Students will not be allowed to stay in the tents on their own.

The walking team will be allocated by the School of Outdoors during training. There are however, exceptional circumstances such as illness/absence when the rearrangement of the teams is required.

## **Equipment**

The DofE Expedition Kit List is your essential checklist when preparing the kit you need for your DofE expeditions. All DofE Recommended Kit is fit for purpose for a DofE expedition. We also recommend borrowing or purchasing second-hand equipment.

The School of Outdoors, our expedition provider, provides every walking team with the following equipment: tents, cooking stoves and gas, maps, compasses, basic first aid kit and trackers. The participants are required to bring their own personal medication if/as required such as epi pens, hayfever tablets etc.

A full list of equipment can be found: <https://www.dofe.org/shopping/dofe-expedition-kit-list/>

\*Nuts are strictly prohibited on all expeditions and we adhere to a no-nuts policy

Any questions about the expeditions should be addressed directly to [Info@schoolofoutdoors.uk](mailto:Info@schoolofoutdoors.uk)

## Support

### Support from parents/guardians

We do appreciate your support through the programme. Parents can support students to remain motivated during the programme, check their progress with their sections, how long they have left to complete it and ask the assessor for an assessor report at the end of each section.

### Support from DofE

DofE Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/theDofEUK>

Assessor reports: <https://www.dofe.org/assessor/>

Award Sections: <https://www.dofe.org/do/sections/>

Activities for each Sections: <https://www.dofe.org/do/ideas/>

Volunteering opportunities map:

[https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1SElhUjKXRJS1e\\_xz\\_Pgr2mDwqbBvB9I&ll=51.6578637855356%2C-1.0606641499999858&z=9](https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1SElhUjKXRJS1e_xz_Pgr2mDwqbBvB9I&ll=51.6578637855356%2C-1.0606641499999858&z=9)

Equipment list: <https://www.dofe.org/shopping/dofe-expedition-kit-list/>

Digital "Welcome Pack": <https://www.dofe.org/welcome-packs-dth/>

Find residential opportunities: <https://www.dofe.org/opportunity-finder/opportunity-for-dofe-participant/?paged=1>

Residential (Gold) checklist: [https://www.dofe.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Residential\\_Checklist.pdf](https://www.dofe.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Residential_Checklist.pdf)

### School Support

The school runs drop-in sessions every Tuesday and Wednesday at lunchtime (Location to be confirmed)

#### Receiving Certificates

If your child completed their programme and did not receive their certificate, advise your child in the first instance to attend a drop in session and see Ms Rusu.

eDofE passwords

If your child forgot their password they can request a new password by clicking the button Forgot Password. If they still cannot manage to recover it, advise your child to attend the drop in session.