

# DUKE OF EDINBURGH

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Which awards do you offer? What do you do for expeditions?**

All students need to complete both a practice and qualifying expedition to complete their award.

At Turing House School we currently offer the following:

- Bronze Award for Year 9 – Walking expedition at Box Hill, Surrey Hills
- Silver Award for Year 10 - Walking expedition at Burgess Hill, South Downs
- Gold Award for Year 12 - Walking expedition at Hope Valley, Peak District and Windermere, Lake District

We use 'Crag and Compass' as the approved activity provider to run our expeditions- more information can be found on their website: [Crag And Compass | "DofE Expedition Provider"](#)

### **What else do I need to do to achieve the award?**

In addition to the expedition, participants need to complete 3 sections - in volunteering, physical activity and skills. Gold participants must also complete a residential section.

### **How do I sign up for the Duke of Edinburgh Award?**

Mr Jacks will run launch assemblies for students at the end of Year 8 for the Bronze Award, and start of year 10 and 12 for the silver and gold awards. Letters will go home and you will have a few weeks to make payment of the initial deposit. Once this has been received, login details for DofE will be shared with students, and they can begin their awards.

### **What can I do to satisfy the volunteering section?**

Ideas of what students have done in the past include volunteering at charity shops, parkrun, beavers, rainbows, churches, or food banks. In school, students can volunteer to help run an after school club, volunteer after school as a helper for a department, or being a school prefect. Sixth formers can use the VISA programme. It is up to students themselves to arrange these activities and ask what is available.

Volunteering CAN NOT be unpaid work for a business - eg you cannot volunteer at a gym, café or hairdresser. Volunteering should ideally be 1 hour per week for the selected time period.

[Volunteering Section – Frequently Asked Questions - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award \(dofe.org\)](#)

### **What can I do to satisfy the physical section?**

Ideas of what students have done in the past include being part of a sports team, playing an individual sport such as golf, tennis, running or cycling. Make sure you have a clear aim, and there is a way of you recording and evidencing what you have done- apps such as strava, or devices like smart watches are good for this. Under DofE rules, dancing is classed as physical activity, and NOT as part of the skills section. Physical section should ideally be 1 hour per week for the selected time period.

[Physical section FAQs - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award \(dofe.org\)](https://www.dofe.org/physical-section-faqs)

### **What can I do to satisfy the skills section?**

Ideas of what students have done in the past include first aid, driving lessons, umpiring, cooking, playing a musical instrument, singing, being in the school show, computing skills, design, online course in business skills, caring for animals and learning new languages.

It cannot be something you do as part of your school course- eg if you take GCSE Spanish you can't learn Spanish for your skill.

You need to show progress and development over the time period. If for example you are cooking, you will need to log the recipes you make and upload photos of food you have made.

A common error is to confuse which section an activity falls into: e.g. developing football skills is a Physical, learning how to referee is a Skill.

[Skills section FAQs - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award \(dofe.org\)](https://www.dofe.org/skills-section-faqs)

### **What can I do to satisfy the expedition section?**

The following must be met to satisfy the expedition section.

Bronze: A minimum of 2 days, 1 night; 6 hours planned activity each day.

Silver: A minimum of 3 days, 2 nights; 7 hours planned activity each day.

Gold: A minimum of 4 days, 3 nights; 8 hours planned activity each day.

Bronze teams and direct entrants will have training in school on elements such as first aid, campcraft, kit, and navigation. The training may take place as part of the practice expedition.

### **What can I do to satisfy the residential section (gold only)?**

A Residential for Gold DofE means a programme that spends 5 days and 4 nights away from home on a shared activity with people that you have never met before. Your residential can have any focus or include any activities. You can go with one or two friends but the majority of the group must be unknown to you.

Ideas:

National Citizens Service - <https://wearencs.com/> , adventurous activity courses, National Trust working holidays, overseas conservation trips, etc

Use the [DofE Opportunity Finder](#) to help you, there are so many opportunities out there!

Make sure your planned residential covers all of the requirements. A good start is to check it using this [Residential Requirements Checklist](#), then make sure it is approved on eDofE before you go.

Also be aware that a certificate of completion is not an assessor's report! Ask for your assessor report to be completed asap, don't leave it too long as staff tend to move on <https://www.dofe.org/assessor>.

### **How do I get my eDofE login details?**

There is a Duke of Edinburgh noticeboard outside Mr Jacks's and Ms Loudain's science lab on the top floor. A list of usernames will be put on here. It is a student's responsibility to go to this board and find out their username.

The initial password is the participants date of birth, for example 1<sup>st</sup> December 2012 would be 01122012. Once logged in, students will be asked to choose a more memorable password. If you cannot log in or forget your password, try to reset it yourself, and failing that, speak to your form tutor.

### **How do I log my activities on eDofE?**

Once you are logged in, you need to log each activity. For all levels of award, all students MUST have logged all activities BEFORE the Christmas holidays. This means you will have started all sections by December, and when it is time for you expedition section in the summer you will have already completed the other sections of the award.

Logging of activities happens on the eDofE website or by using the eDofE app on your phone.

Please ensure the start and end dates are correct, and it has been submitted for approval so a member of staff at school can check that your activity is suitable.

Once you have completed a section, you need to get your assessor to complete an assessor report. You can either fill in a paper copy from your welcome pack and upload a photo, or you can complete an online form here: <https://www.dofe.org/assessor/>

You will need to give the assessor your eDofE ID number to complete your assessor report. This can be found when you log into your eDofE account.

Normally the assessor will be the person who ran the section- eg the charity shop manager, netball coach or singing teacher.

You can ask your form tutor at school to complete an assessor report where finding an assessor is tricky- eg if you have learnt a language on duolingo, learnt to cook at home, or have gone running on your own every week. For this you will need to show the form tutor

evidence you completed this (eg duolingo streak or smart watch log of runs), and then they can fill in a report for you.

Family members CANNOT be used to fill in assessor reports.

More details on completing assessor reports and copies of the welcome pack can be found here [Different ways to submit an Assessor's Report – DofE \(edofe.org\)](#)

### **What equipment do I need for my expedition?**

Full details of equipment will be shared with students close to the expedition. There will also be an online briefing with parents over teams a few weeks before the expedition. Students will need their own appropriate clothing and footwear, rucksack, food and sleeping bag. Group kit such as tents, maps and cooking equipment are provided by Crag and Compass. Students need to leave space in their bags to carry these.

### **Who chooses who is in my group for the expedition?**

A few weeks before the expedition, there will be a meeting with Mr Jacks where students will share who they would like to be in a group with- this will be taken into account when sorting the groups out. Groups must be between 4 and 7 people- the ideal number is 6 so that the group carries x2 3 person tents.

### **When is the deadline for completing the award?**

Ideally all Bronze awards will be completed by the end of year 9, silver awards by the end of year 10 and gold awards by the end of year 13. It is a nice way to end the academic year by handing out the awards in the end of year assembly.

### **I haven't done the bronze award, but would like to do the silver or gold awards.**

It is great if students start off with Bronze in year 9 and progress through each award until they are in Y12, and most students do this. However, this is not mandatory. Some students start off with the Silver award in Y10 without having done the Bronze - this just means that they are classed as a 'direct entrant' which means they have to do slightly longer sections for physical or skills. The same applies to the Gold award- you do not need to have done the Silver one to take part, and again you are classed as a 'direct entrant' with slightly longer sections.