

Introduction

Duke of Edinburgh's Awards can be used to celebrate and recognise the activities that your students already enjoy. For this reason, 83% of independent schools already run DofE programmes. Research from Ratcliffe Hall with the country's largest employers, including the Civil Service, Centrica plc and British Energy Group plc said a Duke of Edinburgh's Award is the first thing they look for after academic qualifications on a CV, even before work experience.

About The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is the world's leading achievement award for young people. As a Charity, we support over 275,000 young people across the UK every year and over 65,000 achieve a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Our ethos is to enable every young person to take part in our programme and succeed. This creates a community of shared experience between people from very different backgrounds and brings proven benefits to all.

The Charity was founded by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh in 1956 and programmes are delivered by over 400 partners in youth clubs, voluntary organisations, schools, colleges, prisons and businesses.



DofE programmes

Anyone aged between 14 and 24 can do a programme at one of three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

There are four sections at Bronze and Silver level and five at Gold.

With assistance from DofE Leaders, participants select and set objectives in each of the following areas:

- 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, participants must do an additional fifth **Residential** section, which involves staying and working away from home doing a shared activity.



For further details of delivering DofE programmes in schools please contact:

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“The varied and flexible nature of DofE programmes appeals to a wide range of boys and girls, offering excellent opportunities for personal development at all levels. Pupils who have followed the programme right through can be identified by their range of skills, social awareness and self-confidence.”

Ian Davies

Headmaster, Brentwood School,
Independent Schools Advisor to the
DofE UK Advisory Committee



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD
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The Duke of Edinburgh's Award and Independent Schools

Information for Heads of Independent Schools

Thomas
Gold Award holder

The Benefits of DofE programmes

DofE programmes are a tool for inspiring young people to develop the skills necessary to be the best they can be.

Our research with Gold Award holders shows that:

- 85% believed doing their DofE had improved their confidence.
- 79% learnt to work as a team leader.
- 83% felt they learnt to work with different types of people through their programme.
- 61% of Gold Award holders still volunteer after achieving their Award.

For your students...

- A highly prestigious certificate in recognition of their achievements.
- An improved chance of getting into the university and/or career of their choice.
- The opportunity to create their own individual learning programme and to give them the chance to explore new and unfamiliar environments.
- The ability to use time effectively, as well as develop personal skills including problem solving and initiative.



For your school...

- Presentation events, unusual expeditions and community action can be used to demonstrate the values that the school instils in its students.
- The ability to deliver internationally recognised programmes which have a very high status with parents and employers.
- A framework in which to deliver a wide variety of extra-curricular activities.
- A tool to encourage those students with low self-esteem.
- A method to encourage all students to do activities to improve their life skills.



“ I learnt teamwork and gained a desire to help in the community. ”

Rory
Ampleforth College



For the wider community...

- Through volunteering young people are able to make a positive contribution to their area. At least a quarter of each programme involves identifying a need and giving up time to help the community.
- Many local groups including the Scouts, Cadet Forces and youth clubs run DofE programmes, providing a useful link to promote shared activities and volunteering opportunities.
- Local residents are able to engage with the school positively.

“ The DofE is an excellent vehicle for developing self-reliance and leadership skills. ”

Graham Able
Master of Dulwich College

Running the DofE in your school

At a local level, the DofE is overseen either by an Operating Authority or your DofE Regional/Country Office. If you decide to deliver the DofE in your school we will advise you on which system is most suitable for you.

“ The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award is a unique framework for personal development, co-operation and social skills, as well as being great fun. ”

Alison Jones
Headmistress, Rye St Anthony School

Staff will need to spend time supporting the activities young people do. We offer training to support new DofE Leaders and a wide range of resources and materials.

We advise that schools have a designated member of staff supported by an active team of senior staff. The most successful schools are those that have the full backing of the Head and governors and in which the commitment of staff is rewarded.

Running DofE programmes also supports the delivery of the International Baccalaureate, as well as being transferable for students who started or want to complete their programmes overseas.



“ Doing my DofE has been a great experience, making me set myself targets to achieve – it’s a really fun way to spend your time! ”

Rebecca
Felsted School



“ DofE programmes aim to build social, team and leadership skills. They are thoroughly worthwhile experiences which enable young people not only to acquire a range of skills, but also to be personally challenged and stretched. ”

Millfield School