

Youth Social Action and DofE

'Youth Social action incorporates a range of activities – including volunteering for a charity, caring for someone in their community, providing peer support online, campaigning or fundraising for a specific cause – and can take place in both formal and informal settings. Social action should be challenging, youth-led (although often adult facilitated), socially impactful, progressive, embedded, and reflective' (<http://www.iwill.org.uk>) Below are the 4 practical tips which education leaders who champion social action have advised others to apply.

1. Put youth social action at the heart of the school or colleges

Find out about youth social action in development visits. Is there a focus for it in the school? Is it in the mission statement or school ethos/values? Is there a member of staff appointed who is responsible for it? How is it co-ordinated?



4. Build strong partnerships

Sell DofE in talks with prospects as a high quality provider of social action. Explain how DofE can embed social action into the school or college in addition to being a stand-alone programme with widespread recognition from employers and universities. Talk about the links to character education, improved behaviour, and endorsement from Ofsted. Find out if social action projects are already going on in the school and how these can link to DofE. Look at other partners – is there scope for local funding from businesses who endorse social action, or partnership projects within the school. Sell year 9 DofE enrolment as a whole school social action programme.



Buzz Words: Character Education, Ofsted, Mission Statement, Values, Behaviour change, Improved GCSE results, Positive Educational Attitudes, Resilience, Wellness, Motivated.

Character Education an umbrella term for all explicit and implicit educational activities that help young people develop personal strengths and virtues.

Ofsted is firm in its views that well-managed, meaningful social action has a very positive impact on children and young people and is keen to promote the value of social action in promoting young people's learning.