



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Youth social action and the 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.

Youth social action should be challenging, youth-led, socially impactful, progressive, embedded, and reflective.

The DofE has a proud history of leading young people to engagement in their communities as active citizens which continues into their adult lives. Progressing through the levels of DofE, from Bronze, through Silver and then onto Gold, a young person's commitment to volunteering or social action progresses from a three month minimum commitment to a full year at Gold level.

Below are the four practical tips which education leaders who champion social action have advised others to apply.

Put youth social action at the heart of the school or college

- Find out about youth social action in development visits.
- Is there a focus for it in the college or 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?

Inspire and reward youth social action

- Create a stronger link between the Volunteering section and social action.
- Run a campaign in the school or college to celebrate the Volunteering section.
- Produce social action certificates.
- Create a noticeboard of the volunteering activities pupils have done.
- Reward students who have completed above and beyond for this section. Ask them to present to others what they have been doing.
- Link DofE Ambassadors with social action ambassadors within the college.



Empower young people to lead their own youth social action

- Develop these ideas within the school for the Volunteering section of DofE.
- Involve DofE students in talks about how to develop your own programme.
- Look at business partners or other partners and develop community links with them to help inspire groups to start a project.

Build strong partnerships

- Sell the DofE in talks with prospects as a high quality provider of social action.
- Explain how the 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 the 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 nine DofE enrolment as a whole school social action programme.
- Ofsted is firm in its views that well-managed, meaningful social action has a very positive impact on children and young people and promoting the value of social action in young people's learning.

For further information visit [DofE.org](https://www.dofe.org) or email info@dofe.org



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