



SCHOOLS AND THE DofE

Developing young people's skills for life and work

Together we can transform young people's lives

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a Charity that has been working with young people from all backgrounds for more than half a century. We want to work with academies and schools across England to give more young people the chance to do their DofE and lead successful and fulfilling lives.

The DofE is the nationally and internationally recognised Award favoured by employers and universities alike. Over time, we build confidence, dedication and commitment, attributes we all want to see in our young people in school, life and in the workplace.

Building a brighter future for young people

It's a tough time to be a young person in the UK right now.

Across the country, many are held back by a lack of confidence or experience, and a poverty of ambition. At the most critical stage of life's journey, young people need some help in making positive decisions. That's where the DofE comes in.

We are working with young people in every community and from every walk of life to provide a solution.

From housing associations to young mums groups, youth centres to secondary schools and academies, young offender institutions to police cadets, we work with more than 280,000 young people (14-25 years) giving them the confidence and key skills employers are crying out for.

Employers tell us they are looking for young people who have achieved a DofE Award when they recruit.

We know the DofE improves employability, which is why many employers put their young talent, including apprentices and graduates through their DofE programme as part of their development. Doing a DofE programme improves behaviour,

attitude, social skills and confidence in a young person.

Students feel the benefit of achieving their DofE Award for the rest of their lives.

It provides a prestigious certificate recognising their achievement and an improved chance of getting into university, college or a job. It gives them the opportunity to create their own individual learning programme and a chance to explore new and unfamiliar environments. They develop personal skills including time management, problem solving and initiative. It also improves their interpersonal skills and gives them friendships for life. Besides that, it's fun!

This is your chance to shape the future of the UK.

The DofE's Guiding Principles are in line with schools' and academies' missions and PSHE programmes. We will help you establish a DofE group so you can give your students the chance to do their own DofE programme.

You will nurture young people's relationship with their community through the Volunteering section of the DofE as well as build the skills base that UK PLC needs for a brighter and more successful future.



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.



“The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award is a key part of our strategy to develop a ‘can do’ culture in Freebrough.

The opportunities offered to our students are an essential part of the curriculum. Students bring the skills and qualities they learn as part of their programme back into school and apply them in lessons and in improving the school community.

We are proud to be part of the Redcar and Cleveland Partnership in delivering the DofE to our students.”

Linda Halbert
Principal, Freebrough

Bydales School

The DofE group at the school attracts a large number of pupils from Year 10 to embark on their Bronze programmes with 62 pupils completing last year and another 75 starting theirs this year. A large percentage of these pupils continue to Silver in Year 11. Participants attend weekly training sessions after school and Year 10 students complete a first aid course delivered by the local fire brigade.



“I am a teacher at a feeder school for Bydales. Many pupils complete the Volunteering section by helping at an after school Motor Skills Club for pupils with mobility and other difficulties. The volunteers have developed skills of communication, teamwork, patience and how to break instructions into small steps.”
Francis Glasper, Teacher

Catcote School

Catcote School Business and Enterprise College, part of Hartlepool Borough Council’s family of schools, is for students aged 11-19 who have a range of special educational needs. Every July DofE participants go on a Bronze expedition through the North Yorkshire Moors. This year they were supported by the Cleveland Search and Rescue Team who showed them how to get out of difficulty if in trouble on the hills. A group of Silver participants recently undertook their expedition with the Ocean Youth Trust North.



“The DofE has improved my confidence and organisation skills. It has made me feel I can achieve anything if I put my mind to it.”
Katherine, DofE participant

Rainford High School

Rainford High School has over 100 students doing their Bronze programmes with support from a small number of staff and many volunteers and parent helpers. After-school weekly training sessions run for an hour, and students also complete a first aid training course. Despite being a large school, this is the largest extra-curricular activity.



“I enjoy giving my time to the DofE because it gives me the opportunity to help students I meet in the classroom develop the skills and attitudes they need to become more rounded, confident adults. I also enjoy the social aspect in meeting the teachers and parent helpers. Every programme is unique and takes you on your own journey of discovery.”
Jenny Blundell
(Group trainer & Cover Supervisor)

The DofE counts towards ‘out of hours’ learning



The DofE is a personal achievement award for young people aged 14-25. It’s available at three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Participants undertake activities for a set period of time in each of four sections – Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition – with a fifth section, Residential, for those going for Gold.

“In Bydales we are really proud of our pupils who undertake their DofE programmes. Every pupil benefits from the range of skills that are developed, these are skills for life that support young people in their future careers.”

Seana Rice, Deputy Head Teacher,
Bydales School

See www.DofE.org/feedback for contact details