

Student survey FAQs: Additional information and guidance for staff in SEND schools and other settings

What are you asking me to do?

We are asking you to arrange for your students to complete a short survey about their experiences of doing their DofE and what they gained from participating.

Here is the link to the student survey: surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GJ92VST

The same link can be used multiple times, i.e. all students in your school taking part in the survey will be using the same link. The survey can be completed on any electronic device – a desktop computer, laptop, tablet or smart phone.

We recommend that the surveys are completed at school / college / in your centre (perhaps as part of your regular DofE sessions, if these are timetabled), so that you can be certain that students complete the survey and you can respond to any questions they might have whilst answering it.

Which students should do the survey?

This survey is for students who have completed or are close to completing a DofE programme (typically Bronze), as well as those who are working towards, or have achieved, their Silver or Gold Award.

The survey is unsuitable for young people who are only just starting or are in the middle of their first DofE programme. There will be opportunities for them to be able to take part in future research, when they are close to achieving their DofE and are in a better position to reflect on their journey.

Should all young people in our school / centre who have completed at least one level of the DofE fill in the survey?

No. Whilst we want as many young people as possible to respond to our survey, we know that getting all relevant students involved can be a very challenging task which would place enormous demands on staff in SEND schools and other centres. With this in mind, we request that you aim for approximately a third of your current students, who have achieved (or are close to achieving) their Bronze Award and those doing their Silver / Gold programmes (if they have achieved a previous level), to take part in the survey. You can involve more if you'd like to, including all your relevant students, but this is not essential.

It is really important that young people completing the survey are as diverse as possible in terms of their needs and levels of ability, their ages, gender, ethnicity, as well as how much



they enjoyed (or didn't enjoy) doing their DofE and got out of their experience. We don't want to hear just from 'shining stars' and students whose stories are used in promotional materials. We want the sample of your students who respond to the survey to reflect the real groups of young people that you work with and support as closely as possible. We recommend random selection of students to take part in the survey as this is a good way of avoiding bias. This does not have to be technical – 'picking names from a hat' works just as well! If it is logistically easier to get a whole DofE group to complete the survey, we would gratefully receive all responses.

How should young people complete the survey?

It would be ideal if young people could submit their responses electronically, by using this link: surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GJ92VST

Students need to submit their individual responses, even if you get them together as a group to complete the survey.

We have included a [paper version](#) of the survey which can be printed so students can fill in their responses on paper. However, we recommend doing this only in exceptional circumstances, e.g. when, due to the nature of the student's needs, it is not possible for them to complete the online survey or if there are certain questions that they would not be able to answer (it is not possible to skip closed and multiple choice questions in the online version). If opting for this route, please email scanned or photographed copies of the completed questionnaires to catherine.newman@chrysalisresearch.co.uk or post them to the research team: Chrysalis Research, 1a Middle Way, Lewes, BN7 1NH. Please include the reference *DofE SEN Research*.

When should our students complete the survey?

The student survey can be completed at any time until the end of December. Within this period, you can decide on the most appropriate and convenient time for them to respond to the survey.

Do young people need support when completing the survey?

The short answer is 'most likely', but the level of support will differ considerably between students. The majority of your students should require only minimal support. The survey was tested with many students in a number of schools and the vast majority of students completed it independently, without needing any help. This was different for young people who are generally supported on a one-to-one or similar basis; they needed a much higher level of support.



It is a good idea to briefly explain what the survey is trying to do and why students are being asked questions before they start completing it. We recommend that you do two things before asking your participants to complete the survey:

- Fill in the staff survey yourself (<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/G9NXSWK>). This will give you a good idea of what the surveys, which are part of this research, are like, how to navigate from question to question, which questions are mandatory and which are optional. The surveys are very intuitive, but some students will not have had a prior experience of completing a survey so these things will be new for them and worth clarifying from the beginning.
- Have a look at the Word version of the student survey which you received with this message. Use the introduction to the survey to explain the process to your students. Having a look at the Word version of the student survey will also enable you to gauge the level of support each of your students will need.

We know that staff working with students on a daily basis will know best how to do this most appropriately. Overall, support can be given to the students to understand and complete the survey, however we ask that the answers are the students' own opinion. There is a separate staff survey so in the student survey we really want to hear what participants think and would prefer if staff do not guide or tell participants what the answers should be. There really is no right or wrong answer!

What to do if you have questions?

If you have any questions about the survey please get in touch with Chrysalis Research on 0117 230 9933 or email catherine.newman@chrysalisresearch.co.uk.

Thank you very much in advance for your help!