

Funding for SEND and Alternative Provision

SCHOOLS



INFORMATION FOR
PROSPECTIVE SCHOOLS



**ACCESS
WITHOUT
LIMITS**



Funded by
UK Government

Project OVERVIEW



The Department for Digital, Media, Culture and Sport (DCMS) has committed £4.2m to offer funding to state schools and community groups across England that do not currently offer the DofE to launch their own programmes, so that more young people than ever have the opportunity to benefit from the DofE.

This includes specific funding for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), Alternative Provision, and Pupil Referral Unit schools to setup and begin delivering the DofE to their students.

Your school may be eligible to receive funding to setup its DofE programme, combined with bespoke support from our operations teams to guide you through the process every step of the way. With this funding your students could join the 15,000 young people with additional needs that started their DofE journey last year.

What is DofE?

- ➔ Any young person can do their DofE – regardless of ability, gender, background or location. Achieving an Award isn't a competition or about being first. It's all about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries.
- ➔ A life-changing experience. A fun time with friends. An opportunity to discover new interests and talents. A tool to develop essential skills for life and work. A recognised mark of achievement; respected by employers.
- ➔ 14-24 year-olds can do a DofE programme at one of three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, leads to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.
- ➔ There are four sections to complete at Bronze and Silver level and five at Gold. They involve helping the community/environment, becoming fitter, developing new skills, planning, training for and completing an expedition and, for Gold only, working with a team on a residential activity.



Why should we offer DofE?



► Welcome to the DofE

For the thousands of young people who take part each year, the benefits of achieving a DofE Award at any level are endless:

- ➔ Young people develop a whole range of important life skills such as resilience, confidence, commitment, drive, self-awareness, empathy, team working and problem solving.
- ➔ The DofE is a flexible tailored journey enabling a young person to shape their activities and experiences around their interests and abilities.
- ➔ Taking part helps level the playing field where any young person, of any ability, can start their DofE programme.
- ➔ Students also give their time freely through volunteering, bringing positive benefits to themselves, their school and the wider community.
- ➔ The Award is recommended by Ofsted as a quality enrichment programme as part of their guidance for schools.



What are we offering?



We are offering a financial grant to eligible schools like yours to make DofE more widely available and accessible, increasing the number and diversity of young people who can access a DofE programme.

“The impact of the DofE on our students is massive, they have a sense of achievement, a sense of belonging. It improves their self-esteem, self-confidence and their socialising with their friends is great. DofE offers the students a chance to do an additional award to their curriculum subjects. It's really rewarding and powerful for them, and something that they are going to remember for the rest of their lives. I think DofE can offer students with profound disabilities just the sense to be achieving just as much as everyone else is.”

Ali Dougal - DofE Leader at Victoria School in Poole, a specialist school for 3-19 year olds with physical disabilities



Alena enjoyed taking part the Duke of Edinburgh's award expedition preparation.

“ I was born blind, I can't see anything at all. I thought DofE would be impossible, really visual so excluding me as when I've camped before I wasn't able to set up tents or anything, I was on the outside. But with DofE I was included, I did it all. I don't think being blind is a bad thing after all. It was great having everything accessible and completely different to other experiences I've had. ”

Allena - DofE Bronze Award participant in Newham, East London

Ethan is a very determined young man who has lived with epilepsy and Aspergers since very young. Both of them affect his daily life, he has regular seizures which he controls with medication and having Aspergers can make things difficult for him socially.

“ Social skills are one thing Ethan finds hard because of his Asperger's. The expedition leader admired his perseverance, not letting things drop. He's been set challenges and had to rise to them, that's what he's enjoyed about the DofE. ”

Ethan's Mum - Claire from Chichester



How long is this project on offer?

This project will run across **three** academic years and end on 31st March 2025.



Academic Years

Sep 2022 – Aug 2023

Sep 2023 – Aug 2024

Sep 2024 – Mar 2025

The sooner you apply, the more funding your school can access.



What can the funding be used for?

Eligible schools can apply for funding to support with the following:



Licence fee support



Training for staff



Bronze, Silver and/or Gold Participation Places



Sectional and/or specialist equipment

Your Operations Officer will be able to advise on how much funding you are eligible for.

How do we apply for funding?

Schools apply for funding through a grant application, completed by an Operations Officer working closely with you to obtain the necessary information.

➔ Please apply for funding by contacting your local Operations Officer or by emailing accesswithoutlimits@dofe.org

Next steps...

Step 1

Initial meeting - learn more about licensing with the DofE, the benefits for your students and what funding is available.

Step 2

Your Operations Officer completes the funding application on your behalf.

Step 3

Develop your Action Plan.

Step 4

Deliver your DofE programme.

Step 5

Complete your annual monitoring report.

Step 6

Apply for the following year's funding.



The DofE in numbers

April 2021 - March 2022

321,622 Young people started their DofE journey 



485,945

Young people actively doing their DofE



2,156,076

Total volunteering hours given by young people



£9,961,071

Estimated total value of volunteering hours given in support of others

30.5%

Of 14 year olds in the UK started a Bronze DofE



37,595

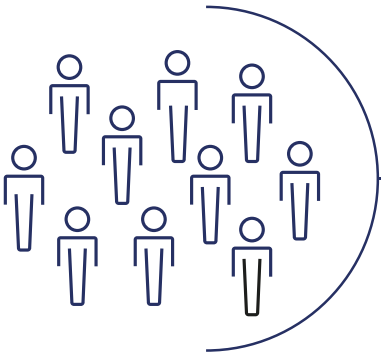
Leaders and volunteers delivering DofE programmes



4,072

Licensed Organisations actively delivering the DofE

Awards started by young people facing marginalisation



47,053 (14.6%)

Experiencing poverty



78,581 (24.4%)

From minority ethnic backgrounds



15,297 (4.8%)

Have additional needs



99,248

Awards were achieved



28,802

Certificates of Achievement achieved

AWARDS STARTED



232,768 Bronze



62,731 Silver



26,123 Gold

11



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