

# The Resilience Fund

# GUIDANCE



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE)  
Resilience Fund: **Support for Young People  
and Licensed Organisations**



**YOUTH  
WITHOUT  
LIMITS**

[DofE.org](https://DofE.org)

# Fund OVERVIEW

As young people face up to today's challenges, we know the DofE has never been more needed.

In line with our strategy, **Youth Without Limits**, we are committed to ensuring that the DofE is open to all young people and that our participants reflect the most diverse generation of young people ever.

**With the generous support of our donors – the Resilience Fund will provide:**

- **DofE Participants** with funded participation places and participant bursaries to ensure that they can access the Award at no cost
- **DofE Licensed Organisation (LO)** with externally recognised expedition training for DofE Leaders, sectional equipment to support the LO to deliver inhouse activities and additional LO delivery support to help reduce costs passed onto the participants. This funding should help support the growth and quality of the delivery within the Licensed Organisation.

**In 2024/25 we have supported over 1,400 LOs to make the DofE more accessible and provided in excess of 25,450 participant places to enable young people start their DofE Award.**



## Who does this fund support?

This fund supports marginalised young people for whom one or more of the below applies to do their DofE:

- Those who have additional needs
- Those who are deemed 'at risk'<sup>1</sup>
- Those who receive Free School Meals (FSM)
- Those who are eligible for Pupil Premium (PP), Pupil Equity Funding or the 16-19 Bursary
- Young people at risk of exclusion from education
- Those who are looked after or in care
- Young people who are responsible for caring for someone else
- Parents under the age of 18
- Young people whose first language is not English, Welsh or Gaelic
- Asylum seekers
- Refugees
- Young people in custody
- Other – the Licensed Organisation must specify.

<sup>1</sup> By 'At risk' we mean any young person who may be vulnerable due to, for example, their age, mental health, disability, illness, gender, race, religion or belief sexual orientation, economic status or who may be unable to take care of themselves against abuse.





The values of funding for a

# **PARTICIPANT?**

“ I took part in DofE as it was completely out of my comfort zone. It helped me learn teamwork and problem solving skills. I enjoyed working towards my goals and trying new things such as volunteering. I was scared to do the expedition but once we started I realised it might not be as hard as I thought and I felt proud once we finished. I would recommend DofE as it helps develop your skills and get you out of your comfort zone.” **Student**, Fraserburgh Academy

“ The DofE Award has had a very positive impact on students, staff and the whole college, it builds a culture of teamwork. Our students work collaboratively and support each other on their personal development. We would highly recommend DofE to other organisations and the opportunities it creates with staff development, funding, equipment and the positive impact it has on our students lives and the community. The practical elements of the DofE motivates students to participate and they enjoy taking part. The DofE Award raises aspirations, promotes resilience and increases engagement in college.”

**Licence Signatory, Doncaster Deaf Trust –**  
Communication Skills College Doncaster



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# **LICENSED ORGANISATIONS?**

**Extending Opportunity  
through the Resilience Fund:  
breaking down barriers at the  
Fraserburgh Academy**



“ The DofE Award contributes significantly to the positive ethos of the Fraserburgh Academy community. It provides our learners, from all demographic backgrounds, with the opportunity to develop their personal and leadership skills, culminating in a well-established and highly regarded qualification which stands them in good stead for their future. Having the funding ensures that no barrier stands in the way of participation of learners from disadvantaged backgrounds, through either the funding of places or equipment. Taking part in the Award gives all our learners the chance to grow and develop as young adults and to be put in new environments and situations which they otherwise could not access. They are then able to use these experiences to better realise their full potential and develop life-skills which are wholly transferable in the future. The DoE Award relates very well to our school motto – ‘Together creating positive futures’.”

**Irene Sharp**, Head Teacher





## Participant Support

To support participants who face barriers to accessing the DofE, Licensed Organisations can apply for fully funded Participant Places and / or Participant Bursaries of up to £125 per participant.



### Bronze, Silver, and Gold DofE Participation Places:

Each Licensed Organisation can apply for Participation Places to be used to support marginalised young people within their Organisation access the DofE award at no cost.



### Participant Bursaries:

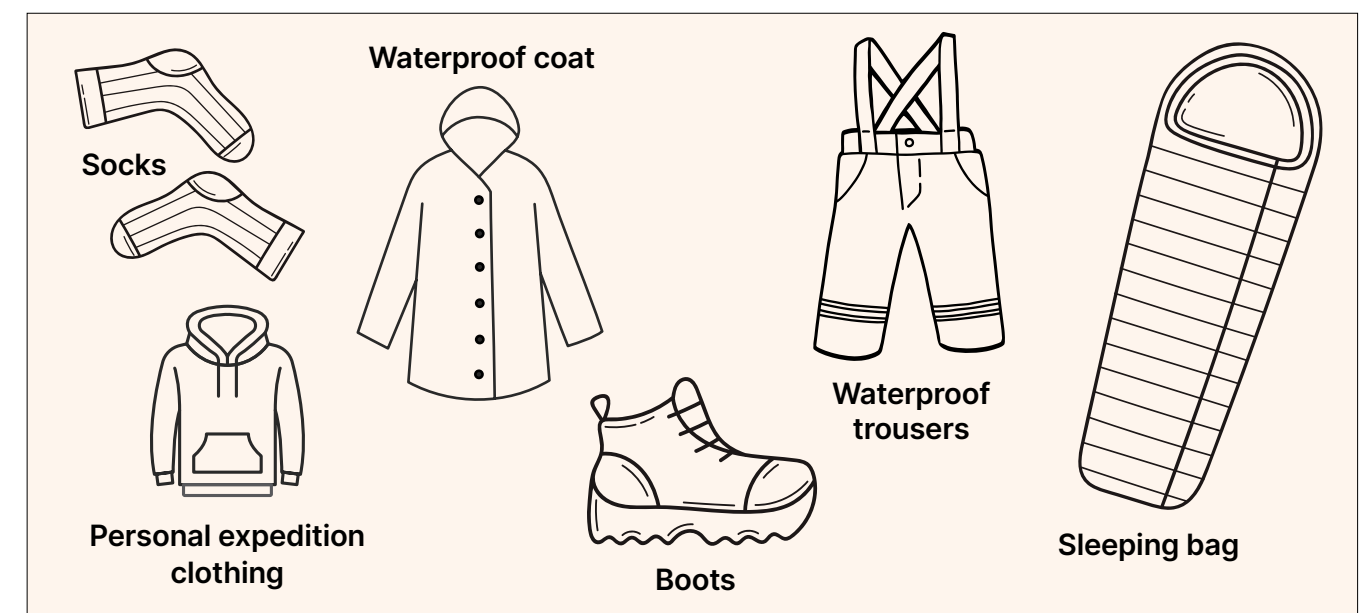
#### Up to a maximum of £125 per young person

Licensed Organisations can apply for Participant Bursaries which can be used to directly support an identified young person with external costs associated with the Expedition or Residential section of their Award.

#### The Participant Bursary<sup>2</sup> can cover:

- One-off **Approved Activity Provider (AAP)** costs relating to the Expedition or the Residential section
- Food up to a maximum of £15 per 24 hour period when undertaking their Expedition section

- Campsite, bunkhouse, or similar fees up to a maximum of £15 per night for the duration of their Expedition
- Participant **personal travel** to/from their expedition and/or residential sections. Eligible costs would include a) train, bus, ferry, or taxi fares; b) mileage rates (own vehicle) at 45p/mile
- Personal expedition equipment as detailed below.



Personal expedition equipment should be kept by participants beyond their DofE programme, enabling access to similar activities in the future. This section is not designed to fund equipment for LO's equipment stores. This can be covered through the sectional equipment section. If any young person does not anticipate using the equipment beyond their DofE, we encourage the LO to collect unwanted items so that participants in future years can benefit.





# Licensed Organisation Support

Licensed Organisations can apply for funding to keep delivery costs of the Award for the participants to a minimum by investing in DofE leaders and providing sectional equipment to support long term delivery of DofE.

## Sectional equipment<sup>2</sup>

Licensed Organisations can apply for up to £2,000 in total to purchase sectional equipment<sup>2</sup> to help support the participants undertaking their DofE activities:

- Up to a maximum of **£1,250** can be used for Expedition equipment, where the LO is required to replace equipment or purchase additional equipment to meet the growing needs of their DofE delivery.

## Expedition equipment

Funding can only be used to cover the following expedition equipment:



## Volunteering / Physical / Skill section equipment

### Up to a maximum of £250 for each section

- The items should enable the LO to start or continue to offer sectional activities to multiple cohorts
- The equipment purchased will help to facilitate the activity and support completion of the section for participants.

#### All requested items must:

- Be reusable for DofE activity.
- Be owned and retained by the Licensed Organisation, who must have the ability to store and maintain them so they can be used again.
- Demonstrate value for money.
- Clearly help facilitate the activity and support participants to do their DofE.



## External training for DofE Adult Leaders

- An LO can apply for the total cost for DofE Adult Leaders to undertake appropriate expedition related training. An LO can apply for a maximum of **£500**.

#### Courses we will fund include:

- Lowland Leader
- Lowland Expedition Leader
- Hill and Moorland Leader
- Summer Mountain Leader
- Minibus Driver Training
- First Aid
- National Governing Body Qualifications in other modes of travel such as mountain biking or canoeing will also be considered if required to complete a DofE expedition
- Pre-approved localised adult training courses required by the LO's risk assessment.





## LO Delivery support

To support with the delivery of the DofE an LO can apply for up to **£250** of funding support.

### This funding can be used for, but not limited to:

- Travel to sectional activities, this can include the cost associated with LO transport or hire of minibus/bus/coach. Fuel costs at 15p/mile for hired vehicles and 45p/mile for personal vehicles
- Food and drinks up to a maximum of £15 per 24-hour period per adult whilst supervising DofE Expeditions for the LO
- Campsite, bunkhouse, or similar fees up to a maximum of £15 per night per adult whilst supervising DofE Expeditions for the LO
- Leader expedition equipment. This equipment must be retained by the LO to ensure that adult leaders have access to the equipment should they require
  - Waterproof jackets and trousers
  - Walking boots
  - Sleeping bags
- LO costs associated with delivery of the DofE, such as maintenance of equipment (replacing tent poles, re-waterproofing jackets and trousers) printing of certificates, or celebration events.

“ The grant has been a great support in lifting the DofE award off the ground. Many students would not have had the opportunity to have this experience if they did not have support with funding. They have excelled within the award and are excited to continue to Silver. The students have made vast improvements with their teamwork skills and independence which would not have happened without the funding.”

**DofE Manager**, Bedford Academy

“ This grant has enabled us to focus on improving the quality of the DofE provision we offer by ensuring that marginalised participants have all the equipment they need and can access all the facilities and activities necessary to involved with achieve all the sections of their awards.”

**DofE Manager**, Lakes College West Cumbria

“ The grant has enabled our young people to engage with the DofE and add this to our school curriculum giving them new opportunities to develop their social skills and another umbrella for personal development skills. Without this funding there wouldn't be these opportunities for our young people to learn new skills or gain fulfilment in achieving individual successes through the Award.”

**DofE Manager**, New Horizons Learning Centre







“ This grant has been invaluable to running DofE at Corley Academy as it has meant that we can run expeditions whilst ensuring that students can participate in all aspects of the Award, and are not restricted in any way due to their home financial situation. Students now have access to high quality equipment to use during their time completing their Award, and are not disadvantaged because of this.”

DofE Manager, Corley Academy

“ This grant has allowed the Award to continue at Paddock and therefore given students the opportunity to take part in activities that they otherwise would not have had the chance to complete. The students have gained communication, independence and teamwork skills through participation in the award.”

DofE Manager, Paddock School

## Key dates

- The Resilience Fund will be **open for applications on the 18th August 2025.**
- The Fund will **close to applications on the 28th November 2025,** or sooner should the DofE decide to do so.
- The Fund will **reopen for applications in early 2026.**





# Application Process



Please contact your DofE Operations Officer for further guidance or support.

## Step 1

Contact your DofE Operations Officer to find out more.

## Step 2

If eligible, complete the DofE's Grant Application Form with the support of your Operations Officer and our [grant application guidance](#).

## Step 3

Submit your application form, including reading and confirming you agree to the DofE's standard Terms and Conditions.

## Step 4

Your application will be reviewed, and you will be informed whether you have been successful by email by your Operations Officer.

## Step 5

If successful, use your grant in line with the agreement, making sure you keep copies of all receipts/invoices.

## Step 6

Complete an interim and final report in line with the reporting dates on the grant application.

### Reporting requirements

Successful Licensed Organisations will be required to submit an interim report six months after the grant approval date. A final report will then be due 12 months after the grant approval date. This will detail how their grant has supported more young people from marginalised backgrounds to do their DofE, and the positive impact this has had.

Grantees must retain all invoices and receipts associated with the expenditure as these may be requested during the final reporting process.

