

Silver DofE Award Expectations and Commitments

Deciding on Skills, Physical and Volunteering Sections

To complete your Silver DofE Award, you need to undertake Skills, Physical and Volunteering Sections. There are lots of ideas for the different Sections on the DofE website. For instance, you could do:

- **Skills:** glass painting; gardening; cookery; bee keeping; reading; pet care; coding; playing a musical instrument; photography; learning a foreign language; bike maintenance. Your Skill cannot be playing a sport; this can only be used for your Physical section.
- **Physical:** team sport (e.g. football); racquet sport (e.g. tennis); martial arts (e.g. judo); individual sport (e.g. running, archery); water sport (e.g. swimming, canoeing); extreme sport (e.g. climbing, ice skating); dance; gymnastics.
- **Volunteering:** litter picking; sports coaching; youth work (e.g. helping at Beavers or Rainbows); conservation work; volunteering in a charity shop; St John Ambulance.

You don't have to start new activities; they can be things you already do. The activities for your different Sections cannot be school lessons, but can be after school clubs, such as Maths Club. If you have completed your Bronze DofE Award, up to 2 of your sections can be the same as long as you have shown progress.

You need to spend **an hour a week on each Section**. If you have completed your Bronze DofE Award, you must do the Volunteering Section for 6 months, and then one other Section for 3 months, and the final Section for 6 months. If you have not completed your Bronze DofE Award, you must do one a further 6 months in one of your 6-month Sections. You need to decide when and where you will do these Sections, and who will assess you. Your assessor cannot be a family member, but a family member can help you complete an Activity Log (for instance recording when you have cooked at home, or gone for an independent run), which someone else can use as the basis for assessing you. If you are stuck for an assessor, you can ask Miss Scane or another teacher – but check with them before putting them down! You cannot have the same assessor for all 3 sections.

This information all needs to be on your DofE Enrolment Form. You will only be able to enrol on Silver DofE with a complete form, even if you have previously completed your Bronze Award. The **deadline** for submitting your form is **Friday 12th November**, we will then provide numbers to School of Outdoors.

Undertaking your Sections

We will help you to log into the eDofE website in the autumn term. You will then use your Enrolment Form to upload information about your Sections on to eDofE. Miss Scane will check and 'Approve' your activities on eDofE. You should keep a log of each time you do your activity on an '**Activity Log**' sheet, available from the school website. You also need to **regularly upload evidence**, such as photos of you doing your activity or of your Activity Log, on to eDofE.

By 31st January, information about all of your Sections needs to be uploaded on to eDofE and approved by Miss Scane, even if you do not intend to start your sections until later in the school year. You should also have **started two of your Sections**, and uploaded **at least one piece of evidence**, such as a photo, to prove this.

If you have any difficulties with undertaking or completing your Sections, or with uploading your Assessor's Reports, you will need to speak with Miss Scane as soon as possible. Unfortunately, in rare cases students are not able to enrol on DofE or to go on the expeditions because they have not demonstrated the necessary commitment to achieving their Silver Award.

The Practice and Qualifying Expeditions

Your expeditions will be run by the School of Outdoors. This is an external company that delivers Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. They will be running the expeditions and the training you must do before the expedition.

You will need to attend the training day on the **22nd April 2022**, during the Spring holiday, in order to train and plan with your group in preparation for the Practice and Qualifying Expeditions. We will cover topics such as First Aid, compass work, and navigating in more challenging terrain. This training day will take place at school.

- The **Practice Expedition** will take place around **Tring** from **Wednesday 29th June** until **Friday 1st July 2022**.
- The **Qualifying Expedition** will take place around **Box Hill** from **Wednesday 6th July** until **Friday 8th July 2022**.

There will be a Parents' Expedition Briefing to provide more detailed information about both expeditions, including kit requirements; we will confirm the date nearer the time.

How much will it cost?

We try to keep costs as low as possible. Our costs go towards necessary expenses such as being a Licensed Provider of DofE and almost all of the cost is paid directly to the School of Outdoors, who run the expeditions. This year, **the cost is £280**.

This includes the DofE enrolment fee, training day, practice and qualifying expeditions and administrative costs. School of Outdoors provide equipment such as first aid kits, maps, tents and stoves. Personal kit such as waterproofs (jackets and trousers) and rucksacks are the responsibility of students.

How can families support students?

Silver DofE gives you the opportunity to demonstrate what you can achieve independently, but your family can play a really important role in supporting you to achieve your award. They can, for instance, help you to choose your Sections, sign your Activity Log, and help you to organise your kit or plan your meals for Expeditions. You also need to arrange to be dropped off and collected from the start and end points of your Expeditions. We really encourage lift shares!

What next?

If you are committed to achieving your Silver DofE Award, you need to work out a team of 4 – 7 members (including you!) for your Expedition, and decide what you will do for your Skills, Physical and Volunteering Sections. **Once you have got this information, please complete the online enrolment form and submit the payment to the Finance Office.**

Blank Activity Logs, as well as further guidance on Sections and the Expeditions, can be found on the school website, under 'Student Information' and then 'Duke of Edinburgh Award'.