

What is the Duke of Edinburgh's award?

The Duke of Edinburgh's award (DofE) is the world's leading youth achievement award and aims to inspire and transform the lives of young people in terms of personal development and employability.

What do students need to do?

There are 4 sections to the DofE Bronze Award. A summary of each is given below and you could find out more about each section at <https://www.dofe.org/doing-your-dofe/activities-sections/> where there are lists of ideas, activity logs and programme planners (in case your child loses theirs).

- **Skill** – to inspire young people to develop practical and social skills and personal interests (e.g. playing a musical instrument, animal care, learning to referee/umpire a sport, learning and collecting)
- **Physical** – to inspire young people to achieve greater physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle through participation and improvement in physical activity (e.g. team sports, dance, running, martial arts)
- **Volunteering** – to inspire young people to make a difference within their communities or an individual's life and develop compassion by giving service to others (e.g. helping people, helping a charity, coaching/leading)
- **Expedition** – to inspire young people to develop initiative and a sense of adventure and discovery, by planning, training for and completing an adventurous journey as part of a team.

Students complete one of the sections for 6 months and the other two for 3 months each. They should spend one hour per week on each of their sections.

We generally expect students to find their own activities for these sections as it builds independence, however we can offer suggestions and advice if students are struggling to think of something. **It is important to note that parents are expected to make the necessary safeguarding and insurance checks for any activity that students arrange for themselves.**

How do school know what they have done?

Students will fill out the section on eDofE to tell us what they intend to do. We will have a session in the computer room showing students how to do this, so they should ensure they attend all DofE sessions in school. At the start of their section, they should ask someone to be their assessor. This is usually a coach/teacher/supervising adult but **cannot be a family member**.

Students should keep a weekly activity log (which will be provided for them, but blank copies are available on the link above) or take photos as evidence of their progress. At the end of the section, they should ask their assessor to complete the assessors report either online (<https://www.edofe.org/assessor/>) or in their booklet, ensuring that all the dates have been filled in correctly. If in the booklet, they must then take a photo and upload it.

What's eDofE?

It is the part of the DofE website which requires a log in (given to your child when they enrol). This is where their evidence is uploaded to, instead of it all being in booklets as a hard copy. Using the mobile site will be the easiest way for your child to track their progress and upload their evidence. Assessors can also submit their reports on the website – again this is the easiest way to do it.

How will students find out about meetings and sessions?

We use student notices which are shown by tutors every morning. We also use a display board in main school to communicate a weekly task, when the next meeting is and any other reminders. This year we are going to be trying to use Instagram (@kimberley_dofe) to regularly communicate reminders and information.

What happens with the expedition section?

The expeditions will be run by staff at The Kimberley School; supervised overall by Miss Walter and Miss Iwanczuk, along with other experienced staff.

Students are expected to attend a training day (**28th March 2020, The Kimberley School**) where they will follow some of the training framework; learning about planning an expedition menu, first aid, map reading basics, route planning.

There will be a combined training and practice expedition (**25th - 26th April 2020, North Nottinghamshire tbc**) where the students will be supervised on the first day, practicing navigation with a member of staff. That evening,

they will complete their training of campcraft (cooking, putting up tents etc.). On the Sunday, students will walk in their groups and be remotely supervised by a member of staff, meeting them at pre-arranged checkpoints along their route. Students will need to bring the necessary kit (see list below) and carry everything themselves.

The final expedition (**16th - 17th May 2020, North Nottinghamshire tbc**) is when the students will be assessed; ensuring that they meet the 20 conditions to complete the expedition section of the award (<https://www.dofe.org/doing-your-dofe/activities-sections/expedition/20-conditions/>) Students will need to bring the necessary food and kit and carry everything themselves again for two days of walking and one night of camping.

Parents/carers are responsible for transporting students to and from the training and expeditions. In the past, most students have arranged car shares with other members of their group to make this more efficient. **Please bear in mind that students must be able to attend all training and expedition sessions or they will not be able to complete the award.**

It is important to note that **students will be remotely supervised when on expedition** (i.e. there will not be a member of staff with them at all times) as part of the whole point of the expedition is to develop independence, initiative and adventure. However, students will be able to contact a member of staff in an emergency and their training should prepare them adequately for the environment they will be in and challenges they will face. This is why it is essential for students to attend all training sessions.

What sort of kit do they need to have?

There is a full kit list available on the DofE website <https://www.dofe.org/dofe-interactive-kit-list/>

Students should have the following essentials:

- Walking boots (please ensure that they fit properly or this could be an uncomfortable time!)
- Waterproofs (jacket and trousers)
- ~65l rucksack (Decathlon and GoOutdoors have some good budget rucksacks which will be fine)
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping mat
- Clothes to wear (NOT jeans)

We have some tents, rucksacks and stoves that students can borrow from school for a small fee and after paying a deposit. This will be on a first come, first served basis. **Please indicate on the enrolment form which items you would like to borrow.**

When students enrol, they get a discount card, which can be used at Go Outdoors, Ultimate Outdoors, Blacks, Millets and many other outdoor equipment stores. Please feel free to check suitability of kit with us before purchase, particularly tents, rucksacks and stoves.

How much is it and how do we pay?

The cost of the award is £150. This includes the enrolment fee, campsite fees and contributions to our license fee, training of staff to support the award and kit necessities.

We will require a **non-refundable deposit of £25 by 8th November 2019**. We cannot enrol your child until this payment is made as it is the cost of enrolment in the scheme.

The **remainder of the cost needs to be paid by 31st January 2020**.

If students do not complete the expedition section of the award either due to missing the essential training or not demonstrating safe behaviour, money paid **will not be refunded**.

Partial refunds may be offered if your child decides to drop out before completion of the award, depending on the stage that they make the decision.

Please pay the deposit and final cost by Squid (in whatever instalments are convenient for you).

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