

Education Department

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Dear Parent/Carer

Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award (Direct Entrant)



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a programme intended for young people to develop their skills, character and promote a sense of adventure. The Award requires the participants to complete activities in four sections: Volunteering, Skill, Physical and a Training and Qualifying Expedition.

Length of time required to complete each section

Level	Minimum age you can start	Minimum length of time (Direct Entrant)	Length of time if you have achieved the previous level
Bronze	14 years	6 months	n/a
Silver	15 years	12 months	6 months
Gold	16 years	18 months	12 months

Time requirements for Silver Award

Volunteering	Physical	Skill	Expedition
6 months	One section for 6 months and the other section for 3 months		Plan, train and complete a 3 day, 2 night Training and Qualifying Expeditions
<i>Direct entrants must undertake a further 6 months in either the volunteering or the longer of the Skills and Physical recreation section</i>			

Physical Section

For example a hobby/club that your son/daughter already participates in (playing football, netball, yoga, dancing or golf). Alternatively, pupils may take up a new activity. They don't need to be in a sports club. They could go jogging, walking, to the gym or for a swim. They need to undertake the physical activity for **one hour each week**. There is a list of a variety of activities on the Duke of Edinburgh's website (www.dofe.org). Parents/carers will need to be supportive and responsible for their children, as the bulk of activities must take place in the pupils own leisure time and outside of school hours.

Skills Section

For example a hobby/club that your son/daughter already participates in (playing an instrument, debating, cooking, photography, poetry, drawing or learning a language). Alternatively, pupils may take up a new activity. There is a list of a variety of activities on the Duke of Edinburgh's website (www.dofe.org). They need to undertake the skill for **one hour each week**.

Volunteering Section

For example helping in a local nursery, crèche, beaver group, Sunday school, helping an elderly neighbour, school club, working in a charity shop, fundraising, helping in a nursing home or getting involved in an environmental project. Pupils are responsible for arranging their own volunteering section. They need to volunteer for **one hour each week**.

Each participant has an online **edofe** account. This records their activities and the progress they have made. Participants must put on **8 pieces of evidence** to show what they have been doing for each section. This can be word evidence, a photograph, log sheet, a short video or a copy of a certificate. Pupils need to ask an adult to be an **Assessor** for each section. This cannot be a parent or friend. It is essential that Assessor **contact details** are provided. When the participant has finished a section, the assessor completes a report sheet or they can put a report directly online using the participants ID number.

Expedition section

At Silver Level pupils will be expected to attend lunch/ after school sessions which will cover the training required to complete their Expedition section. The sessions will cover teambuilding, map work, first aid, outdoor safety, risk assessment, meal planning, hygiene, the country/outdoor access code, camp craft, rucksack packing, navigation and route planning. It is essential that all pupils attend all sessions to complete the Award.

In groups of 4-7 pupils will complete a Training Expedition and a Qualifying Expedition. Pupils will walk 30 miles over three days and they will camp for 2 nights (1 night is a wild camp with no facilities). The locations and routes for the Expeditions are currently been finalised. At Silver Level the Expedition routes consist of paths, tracks and minor roads requiring navigation. There are some steep climbs, therefore it is important that pupils are at a level of fitness to cope.

Pupils will be required to have boots that support the ankle and a large rucksack. Pupils will receive a training booklet and kit list. Due to the large numbers of pupils now undertaking the Award we use a company called Adventure Expeditions. This ensures all pupils are fully trained and supervised at all times during their Expeditions (www.adventure-expeditions.net/) .

The total cost for completing the Award for **Direct** Silver Participants **£275**. This cost includes:

- Administration fees for the edofe account (£20)
- 2 x 3day Expeditions. The pupils will be supervised and given training by Adventure Expedition Leaders.
- Training sessions and materials.
- Assessor fees.
- Campsite costs.
- Transport costs - coach to the Expedition routes.
- Provision of group equipment tents, maps, compass, cooking equipment/gas, group shelters and first aid kits.

Due to the large number of pupils wanting to do the Award there will be two Expedition Groups for Silver.

Group 1-Training Afternoon Wednesday 4th June 1pm-3pm (School E2)
Practice Expedition Thursday 5th- Saturday 7th June
Qualifying Expedition Thursday 18th-Saturday 20th June

Group 2- Practice Expedition Friday 20th –Sunday 22nd August
Qualifying Expedition Friday 4th-Sunday 6th September
(Group 2 will run with a Gold Duke of Edinburgh Group)

Pupils interested in doing the Silver Duke of Edinburgh as a Direct Entrant must complete an application form and return it no later than **Friday the 20th February**.

A more detailed letter about the Expeditions and a payment schedule will be issued if your son/daughter is successful in getting a place.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries or questions.