

## The DofE and excelling in Ofsted inspections

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award frequently features positively in schools' inspection reports. As a result, some of our new DofE centres are actively using DofE to help improve the outcomes of their future inspections.

Inspectors will look to see how DofE Leaders and Managers ensure that the curriculum being offered promotes spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils. This includes the extent to which schools engage their pupils in extra-curricular activity and volunteering within their local community.

Below are some examples of how The Duke of Edinburgh's Award can help to improve the outcome of your inspection.



**The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a voluntary, non-competitive, flexible personal development programme of activities for young people.**

Anyone aged between 14 and 24 can do a programme at one of the three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

There are four sections at Bronze and Silver level and five at Gold.

### Volunteering

encourages participants to become involved in, learn about and respect different aspects of their community whilst developing both social skills and skills for life.

Participants can choose a volunteering activity that involves:

- Helping people.
- Community action and raising awareness.
- Coaching, teaching and leadership.
- Working with the environment or animals.
- Helping a charity or community.

Volunteering also encourages participants to seek out new settings within their community that they can positively contribute towards.

This allows them to develop their understanding and interest of how their input can benefit society as a whole.

The DofE is a great way of evidencing how pupils are engaged in volunteering within their local community.



### Principles of all DofE programmes

- Non-competitive
- Achievable by all
- Voluntary
- Personal development
- Personalised
- Balanced
- Progressive
- Achievement focussed
- Demand commitment
- Enjoyable



## Physical

Physical activity is fulfilled through accessing extra-curricular activities or being a member of a club or team. It can either be connected with their organisation or part of an independent sports team.

Every participant has to demonstrate that they have undertaken a physical activity for at least one hour per week over a sustained period of time, which is dependent on the level of their Award.



## Skills

This section encourages participants to show a willingness to participate and improve upon a skill in an area of creativity, music, learning, science, nature or in a chosen life skill.

By choosing to develop a particular skill they are not only developing a new talent but will also boost their self-esteem, develop practical and social skills and learn how to set and rise to a challenge. The Skills section supports participants to not only demonstrate social development but allows them to use imagination and creativity in developing themselves culturally.

## Expedition

The Expedition section requires participants to undertake training and planning for an expedition, and then

complete it successfully. The number of nights spent on the expedition depends on the Award level being completed.

The expedition encourages participants to work together with a group of young people who may be from differing backgrounds and hold different views.

Through teamwork and communication they work through their expedition and their aim, which offers participants the chance to investigate the world around them and gather information on ethical or environmental issues. They could also examine personal or social issues, depending on the expedition aim they have selected.



Upon completion of the expedition they are required to plan, prepare and give a presentation which allows them to reflect on what they have experienced and learnt. This willingness to reflect demonstrates how a participant can evidence their spiritual development.

## Residential

The Residential section (Gold Award only) offers participants the chance to be involved in a shared activity or specific course with people they don't know, in a residential setting away from home and in an unfamiliar environment.

The residential is a great way of evidencing the spiritual development of a young person in a challenging and different environment.



### Further information

If you require any further guidance around evidencing the DofE in your centre in preparation for, or during, an Ofsted inspection please contact your Regional/Country DofE Office or [info@DofE.org](mailto:info@DofE.org)

[www.DofE.org/feedback](http://www.DofE.org/feedback)