



When can I start my Bronze DofE at school?

- *We commence DofE in Year 9.*

Can I try DofE before committing to the full programme?

- *We structure our programme to allow students to attend the first training sessions and gain more understanding of the commitment and requirements of Bronze DofE before completing the DofE Registration. The cut-off is the week after February half-term breaking, following the first familiarisation day hike.*
- *Once a student is registered with DofE they can start counting their Skill, Physical and Volunteering sections – we recommend not undertaking all at the same time.*
- *You can register as soon as you are sure DofE is for you*

What does it cost?

- *Registration is £36 per student (DofE fee plus camping costs)*
- *Payment can be made by Parent mail*
- *If affordability is a concern please contact Mr Briscoe (sbriscoe1@durring.com)*

Which parts of the DofE award can I complete at school?

- *You will complete your **Expedition** section at school. The training sessions are every Wednesday from 15:15 to 16:30. Students must attend these training sessions each week. You will normally complete the section by the end of Summer term.*
 - *You must complete an Assessment hike and overnight camp*
 - *We will then assign your team to one of two Qualifier Expedition weekends*
 - *Qualifier Expedition weekends are monitored by independent DofE assessors*
- *You may be able to undertake other sections through school activities and contacts*
 - *This cannot be as part of normal lessons, but staff have offered their time for after-school sessions that would count*
 - *Skills - Cooking, Photography, Art*
 - *Physical – Drama, Fitness Club, school sports teams*
 - *Volunteering – in Yr10 e.g. litter picking, supporting Yr9 DofE training*

Can I use activities that I'm already doing for any of the sections?

- *Yes, but please check with the DofE leaders before registering them on eDofE*

When can I start counting my time for a section activity?

- *Once you have registered with DofE and have received and activated your eDofE account.*

Do I have to start all sections at the same time?

- *No, you should consider what you are already doing and your own time commitments. Unless you are already undertaking activities that will count towards your award, then we recommend that no more than one other section is started alongside your Expedition.*

How long do I have to complete my Bronze award?

- *We encourage you to complete all sections by the end of Year 10*
- *The DofE scheme requirement is by the age of 25, but you may wish to undertake your Silver or Gold award at college/university. You can only undertake one award at a time, so you must complete your Bronze before starting on a higher award.*

The DofE website talks about different types of Expedition – do I have to choose hiking?

- *We have to have qualified leaders for the Expedition section. At DHS we are licensed to run only Hiking expeditions.*

What equipment do I need for my hiking and expeditions?

- *You require hiking boots (**that cover the ankle**), waterproofs, hat, gloves, a sleeping bag and a large rucksack (50-60 litre capacity)*
- *We provide tents, cookers, maps and compasses*
- *We do have rucksacks and some hiking boots available to borrow*
- *You provide your own food and snacks*

Can I choose which team I am in for the Expedition section?

- *Yes you can – team sizes will be a minimum of 5 and maximum of 7 team members*
 - *We let students choose their teams, but will intervene if there is an imbalance.*

What is the Assessment event?

- *During the assessment event you will demonstrate your hiking, navigation and camping skills. This will help us to decide who is ready to proceed to Qualifier and who needs more training.*
- *Your team will hike from school on the Friday afternoon or on the Saturday morning*
- *All teams will camp Friday night –at school*

Where will the Qualifier Expedition be held?

- *We use areas of the South Downs that we have not used for training*
- *Parents will be advised of the drop-off and collection locations / times ahead of the event*