



When can I start my Bronze DofE at school?

- *We commence DofE in Year 9 just after Xmas each year.*

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.*

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 in U04 – unless advised otherwise. You must attend these training sessions each week. You will normally complete the section by end September.*
 - *You must complete a Practice Expedition weekend and a Qualifier Expedition weekend (which is monitored by independent 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, Knitting, Photography*
 - *Physical – Drama, Fitness Club*
 - *Volunteering – we can refer you to Ferring Country Centre*

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

- *Yes, but please check with the DofE leaders*

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

- *Once you have committed to the DofE programme and you have received and activated your eDofE account – this would normally be during February-March. Since 2016, we can no longer back date the start for an existing activity that you intend to use.*

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 (65 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?

- *Generally yes you can – however we have to fit within the DofE conditions:-*
 - *Minimum of 4 and maximum of 7 team members*
- *We ask students who they want to be with and then compose the teams within the above limits*

Will the DofE leaders be with us during our Expeditions or will we be on our own?

- *Your leaders will be present at the start and finish of your hikes each day*
- *They will meet you at points of safety on your journey e.g. designated A road crossings*
- *Leaders will be present at the campsite from when you arrive on the Saturday afternoon to when you depart the next morning*
- *Your team will be issued with an emergency phone to contact leaders*