



***Rowhill
School***

Bronze Award

2025 - 2026

Your child has shown that he/she is interested in being part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

But is it important for their future? Will it help them on leaving school? Will it make them more confident, better team player?

YES

What is the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DOFE)?

The DofE programme is a series of activities covering different categories that participants select and undertake to achieve a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The programme is all about **self development**. It focuses on helping young people to improve existing skills or gain new talents, abilities or perspectives, and being the best they can.

Through participation, pupils make new friends, develop social and inter-personal skills, and **increase their initiative, organisational skills; independence and self-confidence**.

Completion of the Assessed Expedition and of the final Award gives a great sense of achievement. What's more, the Award is highly prestigious, and valued by colleges, universities and employers.

Age

The Award can be done between your 13½ – 25th birthday. You must be at least 13½ years old to start your Bronze.

Each student participating in the programme will need:

Commitment

Effort & Initiative

Motivation

Prepared to meet there own goals.

Time - Bronze

It will take you at least **6 months** to complete your **Bronze** programme.

Pupils will need to show regular activity and commitment during this time of at least 4 hours per month. Out of the 3 units other than the expedition, pupils will need to complete 3 months of work. But one of these units will need to be 6 months, the choice of which one is up to you. Two units can be made available to students if requested between 1:40 – 2:50pm on a Friday during options at Rowhill this academic year.

You can't achieve an Award in a short burst of enthusiasm over one weekend!

THE FOUR SECTIONS OF THE AWARD

There is a massive choice of activities that count towards the D of E programmes. However, the choices can be overwhelming, so a certain level of initial support is encouraged. Achieving the Bronze Award is all about personal development and that requires taking responsibility and initiative.

From the start, participants must take ownership of their programmes by choosing the activities they wish to pursue in each section. **Pupils should not do activities that are entirely curriculum subjects with no extra personal effort. Please see Ben Inman for more information if unsure.**

Volunteering

This is all about making a difference to other people's lives. From conservation to youth work to fundraising for a favourite charity or caring for animals, there's an endless list of the types of projects pupils can get involved in.

Skills

Develop new talents or perfect existing ones. The key is to show progression and sustained interest over time. Ultimately, participants must be able to prove that they have broadened their understanding and increased their expertise of their chosen skill. Activities can be undertaken on either an individual or group basis.

Physical

Participate and show improvement in performance and fitness within your capabilities in a chosen sport. Pupils have the opportunity of being involved with after school clubs and join in with the 1 Mile run/walk carried out in the school twice a week.

Expedition – Bronze

This involves planning, training for and completing an unaccompanied, self – reliant expedition with an agreed aim, on foot or by other means. All pupils will take part in an intensive training programme and participate in an accompanied practice journey before taking part in the final expedition assessment.

The Bronze Expedition is over 2 days with 1 overnight camp.

Rowhill school use Hopehill Scout Campsite for the main overnight expedition. Onsite training in navigation and camp craft will be carried out on the school site during the school week. This will include an overnight camp on the school grounds in June.

Pupils will be required to plan, navigate, undertake basic camp craft, and carry their equipment as part of this expedition. Training will be provided by Ben Inman who will get them ready for this challenge of their life time. In the early parts of training team work and development is strengthened.

The DofE assessors are allowing staff to walk with the pupils as part of the expedition under certain circumstances. But staff are not allowed to assist unless in an emergency as this is an unaccompanied challenge.

The expedition is the most time-consuming module as part of the scheme. It requires a lot of work and commitment. However, it is very rewarding undertaking challenges which stay with you for the rest of your life.

What activities can I choose?

A list of all the activities can be found on the D of E website: www.dofe.org . You are more than welcome to choose any of these and do it in your own time. However, Rowhill will be offering some onsite activities for you to choose from.

Can anyone do the D of E?

As stated above, if your over the age of 13½ years then there is no restrictions, however you must be able to abide by the rules as set by the school.

Recording results

A lot has happened from the days of the blue book. We can now record our progress online through EDofE.

What is EDofE?

EDofE is an on-line electronic version of the Record Book. It provides participants with the ability to record their programme in a new way. It gives them the opportunity to record evidence in a host of different formats including text, pictures and movies. EDofE is an interactive online system that helps pupils manage their Dof E programme and Leaders monitor their progress

Completing EDofE

Pupils must not expect their edofe sections once completed to be signed on demand. Pupils are expected to be polite and courteous at all times when asking for a completed report and signature. Edofe completion must not be left to the last minute as there is no guarantee assessor reports will be completed in time.

So what happens once completed?

Silver AWARD

After successfully completing the Bronze Award, it is hoped that pupils will continue with the award scheme by participating in the Silver Award. The Silver award requires a continued level of commitment from all four sections of the award and increased competence in expedition skills.

The Silver Award is offered in many post 16 year placements around the country to enable you to continue your journey.

Ben Inman (DofE Co Ordinator) Gold Award Holder personal reflection

As part of Ben's Gold award he took part in hill walking in Snowdonia, Wales, carrying all his equipment over 3 nights.

His experience as part of the award enabled him to become more confident in what he can do and the goals he could achieve. He has made many friends along the way all over the world. He would not have worked in America and France if he did not have the skills the award offered him.

It also encouraged him to join the Territorial Army in the earlier years. Ben currently holds the Level 3 BELL qualification to enable safe practice on low level walks. In 2017 Ben Inman became a fully qualified teacher.

The Future

This award is for those committed, preparing them for the outside world when leaving Rowhill at the age of 16 years. It teaches independence and commitment which is why so many companies are interested in having D OF E Award holders working for them.

It is up to you to make this a SUCCESS, not us. Rowhill staff will support you in every way we can, we will lead you down the pathway but we will not always be there to open the door.

Be committed and make a difference to your life and the lives of others.

