



KINGS INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Frequently Asked Questions

How does my child sign up for DofE?

Your child will need to get a registration form from Mr Davies. This must be filled in with their details and handed back to Mr Davies no later than Friday 5th October. The £55 registration fee should also be paid on ParentPay by this date.

Which members of staff are involved and who should I contact if I need to?

Mr Davies is the DofE Manager and oversees the general running of the programme. He is also the accredited DofE Assessor and is responsible for assessing pupils in their final expedition. Mr Eaton and Mrs Lee are the DofE Leaders and will be responsible for training pupils in preparation for the expeditions. Miss Beattie and Miss Guess are DofE Supervisors and will support with training sessions and the expeditions. In the first instance you should contact Mr Davies with any queries you may have.

How much does it cost and when do I need to pay?

The Duke of Edinburgh Award costs £110 in total. £55 must be paid to secure your child's place. This can be paid once the registration form has been handed to Mr Davies but must be paid no later than Friday 5th October. This can be done through ParentPay. The remaining £55 must be paid before the end of the Spring Term in 2019.

Can I pay all in one go?

We would appreciate if you pay £55 now and £55 at any point in the Spring Term. This helps us have a better estimate of exactly how much funds will be available to purchase kit and pay for campsites.

What does the £110 go towards?

£19 is immediately used to pay the DofE award directly to secure your child's place for the Bronze Award. This place is then secured until they complete the award or until they are 25. The remaining amounts are used to cover the annual £1000 fee the school has to pay to be a Directly Licensed Centre (DLC), purchasing and maintenance of kit, campsite fees and transport fees.

If my child is on Pupil Premium or Free School Meals can I have the cost reduced?

On the registration form there is a section to indicate if your child is on free school meals. If this is the case the school can apply to have the £19 registration cost covered. You would still need to pay the £55 fee to secure your child's place but once the school has been refunded the fees for each pupil we will refund the money back to yourself. However, we are unable to reduce the rest of the fee as these costs are incurred directly by the DofE budget, which is not funded by the school.

How does the DofE programme gain its funding?

We started the DofE programme in 2015 with a budget of £0. Fortunately, we have had some incredible support from the school PTA who donated £750 to purchase kit while Frimley Fuel Allotments and the Frimley Green Carnival Committee have been incredibly generous and donated £1000 and £500 respectively over the years. We were also supported by Chartwells (the school's caterer) who donated seven brand new cooking stoves. The remaining budget has been gained from the costs paid to secure a place. As the DofE becomes more popular and the school grows the need for more kit and greater costs are inevitable.

What sort of kit will I need to purchase for my child and what if I can't afford it?

There will be specific training on kit in the new year, however kit that we cannot provide are walking boots (which should be broken in well in advance of the expeditions), sleeping bags/mats/liners, and clothing. We can provide bags, tents and cooking stoves, though pupils are welcome to use their own as long as they have been checked for suitability prior to the expedition. Your child's DofE Welcome Pack will contain a card that usually gains you 20% of kit in most good outdoor stores. If you are worried about costs for kit you can apply for a £100 bursary from the Ramblers Trust. This money can only be used on kit. Please email Mr Davies directly if you wish to request this and a form can be sent out to you.

How will my child keep track of their progress?

Once pupils are registered they will be emailed log in details to www.eDofE.org. Through this profile they will be able to set up their activities and upload evidence throughout their programme. The DofE team will be able to keep a track of their progress and offer advice but they are not responsible for ensuring that pupils keep up to date with their progress.

When can my child start their activities?

Some pupils may have already started an activity which they plan to use for their physical, skill or volunteering. Once pupils are registered from 5th October, they can back date their starting date by 6 weeks. Students are welcome to start their activities at any point once they are registered and they do not need to be doing all three activities at the same time.

We are having trouble coming up with ideas for activities, what can we do?

The Duke of Edinburgh Award website www.dofe.org has an extensive list of activities that are suggested for each section.

I was unable to attend the Parent's Evening, was there anything I missed?

Please email Mr Davies directly and he will email you the parent presentation. That covers many of the aims, protocols and key dates for the programme.

Is there any criteria which would stop my child going on the expedition?

We will not take any pupil who we feel is not suitably able to complete the practice or assessed expedition. This may include poor levels of physical fitness, poor navigational skills or a poor attendance to training sessions. We are not willing to risk anyone's safety by allowing pupils to attend an expedition without being suitably prepared. Training will be provided for pupils by staff but preparation for the expeditions is the responsibility of the pupils and not the DofE team. Therefore, refunds will not be offered if it is decided that a pupil should not go on an expedition. Their name will remain on the DofE system and they would be able to complete their expedition the following year, free of charge, as long as they had become adequately prepared. They will also remain on the DofE system until they are 25 years old and will not need to re-register at any point. Pupils can then complete their expedition at any suitable centre in the future. Pupils will also be unable to attend the practice or assessed expeditions if an unacceptable level of their DofE programme has been completed on their eDofE profile. The DofE team can keep track of this throughout the year but it is the responsibility of the student to ensure their eDofE profile is kept up to date. Pupils must have started ALL of their activities (though not necessarily completed them) before attending the practice or assessed expedition.

Please note this will not contravene your rights under the Equality Act 2010

If any of your queries have not been answered here then please do not hesitate to contact a member of the DofE team.

Yours Sincerely

Mr W. R. Davies
DofE Manager

