

# DofE Information for Parents & Carers

## **Benefits of participating in and achieving the Bronze Award**

When your child completes the DofE programme they will develop the skills, resilience and attitude that they need to become more rounded, confident adults. Qualities that colleges, universities and employers are attracted to. So, when you support your child's pursuit of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award, you are investing in their future.

You can expect to see your child develop in the following areas as they work through their DofE programme:

- Self-belief and self-confidence
- A sense of identity
- Initiative and a sense of responsibility
- A real awareness of their strengths
- New talents and abilities
- The ability to plan and use time effectively
- Learning from, and giving to others in the community
- Forming new friendships
- Problem solving, presentation and communication skills
- Leadership and teamworking skills

## **Supervision**

All DofE Leaders and Expedition Supervisors undergo checks and training through their Licensed Organisation to ensure young people have access to a high-quality programme.

However, given the scope and breadth of DofE programmes, your child may choose to undertake activities that are not directly managed or organised by their group, centre or Licensed Organisation (i.e. at their local gym or conservation group). If this is the case, you, as their parent/guardian/carer, are responsible for ensuring that the activity is properly managed and insured, and that the adults are suitably qualified and checked.

DofE Leaders are sensitive to all participants' individual cultural, religious, physical and other requirements. Consequently, they can organise activities suitable for participants' needs and schedule them around important religious events etc. as appropriate.

## Frequently asked questions from parents

### **1. Does my child have to do the Bronze DofE award with school?**

Yes, here at Brian Clarke we are ambitious for all. Every student will take part in the Bronze DofE award during year 9. This is a very special part of our wider curriculum, and we want to give your child the very best experiences and learning opportunities not just academically but personally too.

Going forward, the silver and gold award will also be available, but these further awards will be optional.

### **2. What happens if we can't pay the £80 per child in full?**

First of all, do not worry. Instalments through Parent Pay will be available. If you need any further help on this matter, please speak to the DofE lead Mrs Hargreaves.

### **3. What does the £80 per child cover?**

The fee of £80 per child is for the entire award.

- Registration fee
- DofE starter pack
- Essential equipment for example compasses, tents & stoves
- Expedition contribution campsites, travel etc

### **4. My child doesn't have walking boots or a rucksack. Can they still take part?**

As a school community we will endeavour to help all students achieve the DofE Bronze award. We will help those who do not have essential equipment (they will be able to borrow it from us) and we will ensure that all students have equal opportunities to be successful in completing this award.

## 5. My child already does activities outside of school, why are they doing the skills and physical section during co-curricular?

It is brilliant that your child already participates in extra-curricular activities outside of school. However, it is vital at Brian Clarke that all of our students have equal opportunities as well as a varied diet of co-curricular opportunities.

## 6. My child is already doing The DofE award with another organisation, do they still have to do it with school?

When an individual is taking part in the DofE award they can only register for the award once. We recommend that your child registers through school and gets to experience the award with their peers here at Brian Clarke.

If your child is at an organisation who are working towards the award also, they could use this as an opportunity to complete their volunteering section and then use their expertise back in school to take on more of a leadership role with us at BCA.

## 7. What does the DofE Bronze award involve?

- 1 lesson per fortnight, learning essential skills for the expedition section of the bronze award.
- Skills section (co-curricular)
- Physical section (co-curricular)
- Volunteering section
- Expedition 2 days/ 1 night (during the summer term)
- Students will log all evidence on the eDofE platform. All students will be given log in details in September.



## 8. I don't know where my child can volunteer?

The volunteering section is a vital part of the award. This is about giving back to our community and making a difference in someone else's life. If your child is nervous about volunteering it might be something you choose to do together as a family.

We have a number of local organisations who are actively looking for volunteers and as we have an excellent reputation in the community, they would be happy to take on committed students.

- Litter busters Hathershaw
- Junior Parkrun
- Clarksfield & Glodwick FC
- Coppice Community Hub

Alternative volunteering options in the community

- Helping at your football club/ netball club
- Helping at Church or Mosque
- Helping in the community – Start your own litter picking group
- Volunteering at your horse-riding club/ karate club/ dance club/ scouts/ girl guides
- Start a Food bank
- Volunteer at an established charity

Additionally, there will be some volunteering opportunities at Brian Clarke however these spaces will be limited and will be based on a first come, first serve basis.

- Sports leader duties/ events
- Librarian
- Reading buddies
- Poetry by heart
- Litter picking – helping after school/ during break & lunch
- DICE club – supporting and raising awareness of diversity and inclusion within the community

## 9. I'm nervous about my child taking part in the expedition section of the award. They have never done anything like this before. Do they have to do it?

First of all, it is ok to be nervous. As caring, loving parents you want to protect and ensure your child's welfare and we as teachers and as parents ourselves understand this.

However, these experiences are about broadening horizons, challenging our students to realise their full potential and to create long lasting memories that they will look back at in years to come with pride and a sense of achievement.

To build confidence not only for your child but also for yourselves as parents/ carers, start by going out on small walks on an evening or weekends as a family. Slowly build up fitness and confidence and explore the community around you.

For beginners take a look at:

- Tandle hills
- Crompton Moor
- Alexandra Park
- Dovestones reservoir
- Ogden reservoir

We want this section to be the most enjoyable and exciting but please encourage your child to step out of their comfort zone and let's embrace this opportunity together. Our students have strengths that we may not have discovered and through new opportunities we can discover hidden talents, hidden strengths and give our students, your children confidence to know that they can achieve anything with determination and with hard work.

#### **10. I never had the opportunity to complete the DofE award when I was at school, is there an opportunity for adults to complete the award?**

The award is aimed at young people from 14 – 25 years old. However, there isn't anything stopping you from unofficially completing the award yourself. If you would like to complete the award, we would be happy to give any parents/carers a logbook so that you can set yourself some new goals and challenges.

You are never too old to learn something new, you are never too old to start your fitness journey and modelling this to your children can also be incredibly rewarding. Life is for living so get out there together and become everything you can be and everything you are meant to be! It's never too late.