

Dear Parent/Carer

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award at BCCS

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is the world's leading achievement award for young people, and is highly regarded by Universities, Colleges and Employers. It encourages young people to develop independence, commitment, leadership and teamwork through being involved in a personalised programme of activities. The school fully supports the award and recognises its unique value for developing skills and attributes in young people.

The Award is split into four sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skill and Expedition. It takes at least 6 months to complete and requires regular commitment to various activities. Your son/daughter will need to find ways to fulfil the Volunteering, Physical and Skill section of the award, while in school we will focus on the Expedition section.

We do our best to ensure that cost is not a barrier to the award. Students on Free School Meals in January 2026 will have a free expedition place and incur not additional cost for the expeditions. All students will need to pay the registration fee (See below)

Volunteering, Skill and Physical Sections

Please see the Duke of Edinburgh Award website (www.dofe.org) and the [school DofE website](#) for more information about these sections. Participants need to choose an activity, for each section, that fulfils the requirements of the award.

Two sections should be done for a minimum of 15 hours, spread over a minimum of 3 months, and one section for at least 30 hours spread over a minimum of 6 months.

Regular commitment is required, so an 1-2 hours weekly or 2-3 hours fortnightly (rather than lots of hours once a month, for example). I can backdate the start date for the Award to January 2025, so any appropriate activity since then may count toward the required 3 or 6 months.

For each section, the student will need to identify/agree a suitably experienced adult (not a family member) who can act as an Assessor; they will be required to write a short Assessor's report, confirming the student's participation, at the end of the 3 or 6 months of activity via this [Online Portal](#).

'Formal' activities run as classes or clubs (e.g. piano lessons, club football training, etc) are easiest to evidence, but students can also choose to do something **'informal'** such as to self-teach guitar via YouTube tutorials (Skill) go running (Physical). One of the most common is cooking/baking at home.

Informal activities require a little more thought about how to evidence what they have done. More details and advice can be found on the [school DofE website](#). Their assessor will need to be their Tutor in school, who will have access to eDofE to see the 'evidence' of the activity. Keeping a diary with some photos is the best starting point. Dates, times and details are what we need to see!

A few key points:

- 1) **Volunteering for a business is work experience, not volunteering.** Volunteering should be with a charity, not a for profit organisation, community group.
- 2) **Sport is skillful, but never a Skill.** Dance, martial arts, extreme sports are all Physical activities, despite the 'skill' levels they require.
- 3) **Music lessons** might be only 30 minutes a week, but the student's practice time can also count towards the hours needed.

Below is a 'Planning Form', to help you/students to start planning these sections and to gather the information that will need to be added to their online eDofE account (at www.eDofE.org) once it is created. Once registered for the award, students will be required to confirm these plans for each section, on eDofE, by October 14th. Once logged on eDofE, I will double-check their plans to ensure that they will fulfil the requirements, and will advise them if changes are required.

Expedition Section

The Expedition section requires participants to undertake an assessed two day backpacking expedition. Before this, participants need to be trained and to take part in a training expedition, of two days and one night. **Participants will need to complete both trips.** The key dates are:

DofE Bronze Training	Friday 24th April to Saturday 25th April 2026	N.Somerset
DofE Bronze Assessed	Friday 15th May to Saturday 16th May 2026	Quantocks

Expedition training will take place on a number Tuesday afternoons from February. Attendance is crucial to ensure that participants are trained and prepared and we are confident they are ready for the expeditions. Each participant will be required to complete a training log in order to take part in the assessed expedition.

Participants will be expected to have their own personal walking equipment (walking boots, waterproofs, suitable clothing, sleeping bag and mat), whilst school will provide tents and cooking equipment.

We have a limited number of individual items (sleeping bags and rucksacks) that can be borrowed. Further information about kit requirements can be found on the [school DofE website](#) and advice on equipment will be offered during the after school expedition training. There is a discount available in many outdoor retailers for DofE Award participants.

The total cost for the training expedition and assessed expedition will be approximately £120, depending on numbers (the exact cost will be confirmed in January).

STUDENTS WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED on Expedition if they have completed the required hours and submitted assessor reports for two of their Physical/Skill/Volunteering sections by January 26th, 2026.

Registration and Consent

To register your student to participate in the DofE Bronze Award, please complete this [consent form](#) and pay the £35 registration fee, on ParentPay, by **July 11th 2025**. If it is not possible to pay all of this by this date, please make part payment of £20 and ensure the remaining balance is paid by 30th September 2025.

The fee covers the cost of registration for the award with the DofE organisation, and contributes towards the License fee and administration of the award. Once payment is made, we will register students to give access to www.eDofE.org where we log activities - support will be offered in school on this in September.

When completing the consent form, please note that the school is not responsible for the safeguarding of students engaged in Skills, Physical and Volunteering activities outside of school, and you should ensure that you are happy with this aspect of their plans and their chosen Assessors.

If you have any questions, do please get in touch with me via DofE@bristolcathedral.org.uk .

Your sincerely,

Will Davies

**Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager
Bristol Cathedral Choir School**

Duke of Edinburgh Award: Bronze Planning FORM.

You could use this to help start planning your activities. There is no need to hand this in.

Name		Tutor Group	
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(See www.dofe.org for advice and details and [school website](#))

Volunteering Select one	Helping people Community Action Coaching / Teaching Environment / Animals Charity / Community help
Activity chosen	
Where and when?	
Goals?	
Evidence	<i>If a formal activity which you see an adult for each time, e.g. helping in a charity shop, you will not need additional evidence. If you are doing something 'informal' - e.g. litter picking in your local park - then you need to think how you can provide evidence for your Assessor for this section.</i>
Name AND contact for adult Assessor (over 18 – not a family member)	

Physical Select one	Team / Individual Sport Water Sport / Racquet Sport Dance, Fitness Extreme Sports Martial Arts
Activity chosen	
Where and when?	
Goals?	
Evidence	<p><i>If a formal activity which you see an adult for each time, e.g. club football training, you will not need additional evidence. If you are doing something 'informal' - e.g. going running - then you need to think how you can provide evidence for your Assessor for this section.</i></p>
Name AND contact detail for adult Assessor (over 18 – not a family member)	

Skill Select one	Creative/Performance Arts, Music Science /Technology Media / Communication Care of Animals Life Skills Learning and Collecting Natural World
Activity chosen	
Where and when?	
Goals?	
Evidence	<i>If a formal activity which you see an adult for each time, e.g. piano lessons, you will not need additional evidence. If you are doing something 'informal' - e.g. teaching yourself the guitar - then you need to think how you can provide evidence for your Assessor for this section.</i>
Name AND contact detail for adult Assessor (over 18 – not a family member)	