CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Bangholm Outdoor Centre
23 Craighall Gardens
Edinburgh, EH6 4RJ

CEC Duke of Edinburgh's Award Virtual Group Information Sheet

Duke of Edinburgh Award Programme – Why do DofE?

The DofE is a self-development programme for young people aged 14-24, which has three progressive levels, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Some of the key benefits from taking part are:

- Improved self-belief and self-confidence
- A sense of identity and increased responsibility
- An understanding of your strengths and weaknesses
- The ability to learn from and give to others in the community.
- New Relationships
- Life skills including problem solving, presentation and communication
- The ability to lead and work as part of a team

Reason for the Virtual Centre

Thank you for your interest in our CEC Virtual Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award Centre. This Centre is managed and supported by the City of Edinburgh Council Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit. It has been established for the following reasons:

- To create extra places to meet ongoing and predicted demand.
- To provide a flexible option for young people who need it.
- To support young people in doing DofE in a different way.
- To provide a continuation pathway to school and group leavers.
- To give the opportunity to take part in the DofE programme where there is no provision in a school or community setting.

Supporting participants through their journey – our commitments to the young people

Using CEC staff plus registered and PVG checked DofE Volunteers, we will support young people through their journey. We will do this by:

- Organising regular drop-in sessions so participants can ask questions about their programmes.
- Organise online sessions for participants where this solution will work better.
- Answering questions that are emailed to the DofE Unit or posted through the eDofE system.
- Approving evidence promptly on eDofE so participants can see their profiles are being looked at.
- Proactively contacting/supporting young people who aren't up-loading evidence for a quick check-in.
- Signpost young people to different expedition pathways (we cannot guarantee any direct expedition provision from us via this Virtual Group). Parents/careers and young people are responsible for checking details of third-party expedition providers.

Our expectations of participants

The DofE journey requires commitment from the young person undertaking the challenge. We will expect to see the following:

- Activity programmes with Assessor's identified added to eDofE promptly.
- Regular updates to eDofE of appropriate evidence for the activities that are being undertaken.
- Challenges to completing activities raised so help can be given to find solutions.

Participants requiring support with access to IT should use the contact details below.

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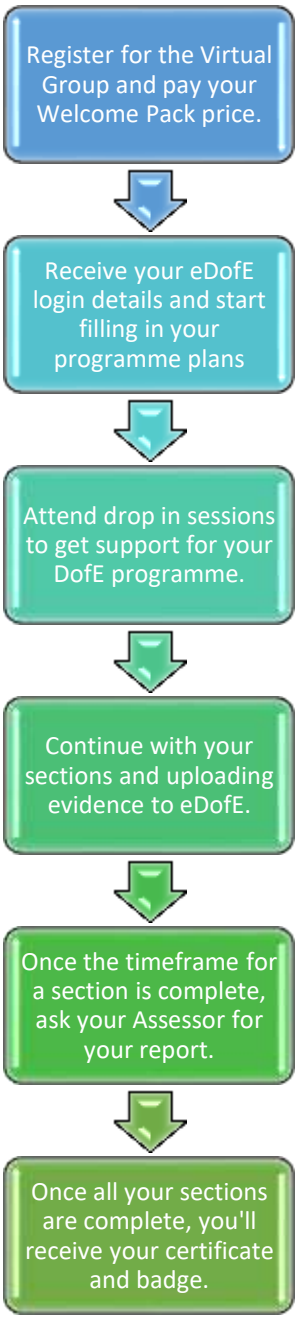
Process



Getting started with the Virtual Group

Registration is a two-step process:

- Register your interest through the MS Form application
- Complete the payment through the Experience Outdoor website.

Once these two steps are complete, we manually create the account on eDofE and email the account information to you.

How much will this cost?

The total cost of a young person DofE programme will be determined by the activities they undertake. However, there is a cost for registration:

- Bronze £28.00, Silver £28.00 and Gold £35.00.

The DofE Award nationally has a fund that can be applied to by individuals to help with the cost of their DoE programme. This can be used to cover activity costs or towards expedition equipment.

Use the contact details below if you have any financial or other concerns in accessing this group. Registration costs are normally not refundable.

Expedition Support and Opportunities

There are several ways participants can sign up to complete their expedition.

- The DofE Opportunity Finder – DofE Approved Activity Providers advertise expedition provision on this website for participants across the country.
- Awards Plus – An Edinburgh based charity run an open expedition programme at all levels so please check their website for opportunities in 2024.
- Expedition equipment can be hired from Bangholm Outdoor Centre for any expedition for a small fee. Please contact us if you need access to this service.

Further Information

To find out more about the DofE and how to design your programme please have a look at the following sites:

- Information on the DofE website, including FAQ's for participants and parents.
- On the DofE YouTube channel. Short videos to introduce the DofE programme.

Keeping in touch

If you have any questions about activity choices, timescales, getting Assessor reports or anything about your DofE programme. Please contact us:

- Send a message through the eDofE system to your Leaders
- Email DofE_Edinburgh@Edinburgh.gov.uk and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

We look forward to supporting you through your DofE journey!

CEC Outdoor Learning Team.

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