

Duke Of Edinburgh Award Curriculum Intent

Subject Vision

At Trinity Academy Newcastle, the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) curriculum provides learners with opportunities to develop resilience, independence and confidence through practical, outdoor and experiential learning. Through participation in physical activity, skill development, volunteering and expedition experiences, learners develop the knowledge, skills and personal qualities required to succeed both within and beyond school. The curriculum encourages learners to challenge themselves, develop self-belief and build the confidence needed to become successful and independent young adults.

The Role of DofE within the Trinity Curriculum

DofE forms a key part of the **Life Skills and Future Readiness** strand of the Trinity Curriculum Model. Through challenge, teamwork, leadership, and real-world experiences, learners develop the practical skills, resilience, and independence required for adulthood. The program provides meaningful opportunities for learners to apply learning beyond the classroom whilst developing confidence, communication, and self-regulation.

DofE contributes significantly to the academy's curriculum drivers by promoting independence, SEMH development, communication, teamwork, and preparation for adulthood. Learners are encouraged to take responsibility for themselves, work collaboratively with others, and develop the confidence to overcome challenges and achieve personal goals.

Assessment and Progression

Assessment is directly aligned to curriculum progression and enables learners to demonstrate growth in independence, leadership, teamwork and personal responsibility from their individual starting points.

Progress is measured through participation, commitment and successful completion of programme activities. Through Trinity Academy's assessment framework, learners develop confidence, resilience and transferable life skills whilst working towards recognised Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Curriculum Intent

At Key Stage 4, learners undertake increasingly challenging experiences through the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme.

Learners continue to develop:

Duke Of Edinburgh Award Curriculum Intent

- Leadership and responsibility
- Independence and self-management
- Teamwork and communication
- Practical expedition skills
- Problem-solving and decision-making

The programme prepares learners for future education, employment and adult life by encouraging sustained commitment, reflection and personal growth through authentic experiences.

Developing Independence and Responsibility

Learners develop independence through participation in the physical, skills, volunteering, and expedition sections of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. They learn to organise themselves, manage equipment, take responsibility for their commitments and demonstrate perseverance whilst working towards a nationally recognised qualification

Developing Outdoor and Expedition Skills

Learners develop practical outdoor learning skills including navigation, map reading, camp craft, route planning and the safe use of equipment. Through expedition experiences, learners learn how to manage resources, assess risk and operate safely and effectively within outdoor environments.

Developing Teamwork and Communication

The DofE programme provides opportunities for learners to work collaboratively towards shared goals. Through expeditions, volunteering and group activities, learners develop communication, leadership, problem-solving, and teamwork skills whilst learning to support and encourage others.

Developing Resilience and Personal Growth

Through physical activity, outdoor learning, and challenging experiences, learners develop resilience, determination, and self-belief. They learn how to overcome barriers, manage setbacks, and reflect positively on their achievements, helping them to develop confidence and emotional resilience.

Developing Digital Literacy and Planning Skills

Educational technology is used to support planning, research, navigation, and reflection within the DofE programme. Learners use digital tools to access information, review routes, research locations, and document experiences. This supports the academy's commitment to digital literacy and aligns with the NAACE EdTech Review Framework by preparing learners to use technology responsibly and effectively in real-life contexts. This section strengthens alignment with your whole-school digital learning strategy and NAACE commitment.

Duke Of Edinburgh Award Curriculum Intent

Supporting SEMH Development

The DofE curriculum has been designed to support learners with SEMH needs through structured challenges, positive relationships, and opportunities for success. Outdoor learning experiences enable learners to develop confidence, self-esteem, emotional regulation, and resilience within supportive and purposeful environments.

Preparation For Adulthood

Preparation for Adulthood sits at the heart of the DofE programme. Learners develop practical life skills including organisation, first aid, cooking, risk management, communication and decision-making. These experiences help learners become increasingly independent whilst preparing them for future education, employment, and adult life.

Intended Outcomes

By the end of Key Stage 4, learners will:

- Demonstrate resilience, independence, and personal responsibility.
- Develop practical outdoor learning, navigation, and expedition skills.
- Work effectively as part of a team and communicate confidently with others.
- Apply problem-solving, leadership, and decision-making skills in real-world contexts.
- Develop confidence, self-esteem, and emotional resilience.
- Use technology appropriately to support planning, organisation and personal development. (Aligned to the whole-school digital strategy.)
- Achieve a nationally recognised qualification through successful participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- Be prepared for further education, employment, and adult life through the development of practical life skills and independence.
- Demonstrate effective leadership and teamwork skills.
- Apply practical expedition and navigation skills independently.
- Reflect critically on personal development and achievement.
- Use communication and problem-solving skills effectively in unfamiliar situations.

Ambition

Regardless of starting point or pathway, all learners are entitled to an ambitious Duke of Edinburgh programme that develops resilience, independence, leadership and personal responsibility.

Duke Of Edinburgh Award Curriculum Intent

Through carefully planned challenge and high expectations, learners are supported to become:

- Confident individuals
- Effective team members
- Responsible citizens
- Independent problem solvers
- Successful young adults prepared for further education, employment and adult life