

Adventure Aberdeen

**Education & Children's
Services**

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Dear DofE Participant,

GUIDANCE ON CHOOSING DOFE PLACEMENTS

On behalf of the Duke of Edinburgh Team at Aberdeen City Council, I would like you to welcome you to the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and hope you are looking forward to the challenge of getting started and completing each section! As you start thinking about choosing your placements, we thought it might be a good idea to flag up a few common issues that arise when choosing placements & activities:

- **Volunteering - Placements:** Please ensure that when choosing a placement, you check that the organisation / group you wish to volunteer with is either a charity or categorised as “*not for profit*”. In particular we would definitely recommend checking if you are planning to volunteer with a **dance school, martial arts club or care home**, as in many cases these organisations are actually businesses. Businesses are not eligible for a DofE volunteering placement.
- **Sports Leadership:** Sports Leadership can count as **both** a volunteering or skills placement. As a volunteering placement, only evidence of leading / assisting with a group is required. However, to count as a **skill** the evidence submitted should reflect the **planning and evaluating** of the delivery of activity sessions, otherwise it may not be approved as a skills activity.
- **Sports & Dance Appreciation:** As both these topics are categorised as skills, the focus should be on the **researching and studying** of these activities, rather than the participation in the activity (which would be considered a physical placement). For example this placement could be used to look into the history of a sport, going to performances & writing up critiques, finding out about different types of dance, famous dancers / sports people etc.
- **First Aid:** Learning first aid is a Skills section activity. Volunteering to be a first aider with (for example) St. John Ambulance is a Volunteering section activity. Taking an intensive first aid course will generally only count towards 25% of a skills activity, while the rest of the placement should demonstrate how the learned skills have been put into practice on a regular (weekly) basis.

Gayle Gorman
Director

- **Physical:** Martial Arts, Sailing and Golf are considered physical activities and will not count towards the skills section, unless you are studying each sport as part of a sports appreciation topic.

Further information on what can count for each section can be found on the DofE website here: <http://www.dofe.info/en/content/cms/faqs/sections/>

Please note that if the activity isn't appropriate for the section, it is unlikely to be approved (even if the activity has been undertaken for a number of months), and you therefore risk having to find another placement.

Therefore we strongly advise you check the eligibility of your placements you are planning before you get started!

I hope that helps. If you have any queries regarding placements please speak to your DofE Leader, or contact dofe@aberdeencity.gov.uk.

Good luck with your award!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Pain". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mark Pain
Wider Achievement Manager
Aberdeen City Council