
DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD EXPEDITIONS

PREFACE

Chiltern Hills Academy is a learning environment at the heart of its community. We encourage every person in our community to:

Create, Aspire and Excel to 'Live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)

We achieve this through our dedication to the seven Christian values of love, hope, self-discipline, compassion, forgiveness, respect and honesty.

We are a community in which staff, students and parents work collaboratively to develop a learning environment and organisation which is spiritual, safe, innovative, creative and exciting. All members of the Academy are motivated and inspired by the vision to give their best and to play a full part in the life of the school and in their own developing lives.

The Governors at Chiltern Hills Academy are committed to achieving the vision and values. They oversee and monitor this policy to ensure that this is being achieved.

FOREWORD

This policy contains the following sections:

TITLE	CODE
Abbreviations and Terminology	N/A
Foreword	N/A
Expedition Planning Process	DofE001
Walking expedition staffing ratios	DofE002
Expedition Supervision Arrangements	DofE003
First Aid	DofE004
Staff Documentation	DofE005
Serious Incident and 'Near Miss'	DofE006
Walking Expeditions at Gold Level – additional guidance	DofE007
Using Approved Activity Providers (AAPs)	DofE008
The Variation Process	DofE009
EVOLVE & Notification	DofE010
Quality Assurance & Positive Development Strategy	DofE011

This document is designed to support and guide CHA DofE staff through the expedition section and clarify the planning arrangements and staffing levels centres are expected to work to.

This policy has been effective since August 2016 and DofE centre should be working within standards and requirements outlined. Bucks Council will continue to offer support and guidance through the Evolve process as with any other CHA trip.

This document primarily covers walking expeditions; however suggested ratios/qualifications have been added for water based activities as these have become more popular. For expeditions using other modes of transport please request specific guidance.

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All resources named in this policy can be requested from the South East DofE Team.

For the safe and effective running of Duke of Edinburgh at Chiltern Hills Academy we work alongside an external company called Ocean Rock. Ocean Rock plan and execute the expedition routes, ensuring full safety and responsibility of our students.

South East Region DofE Contact Paul Redshaw, Operations Officer

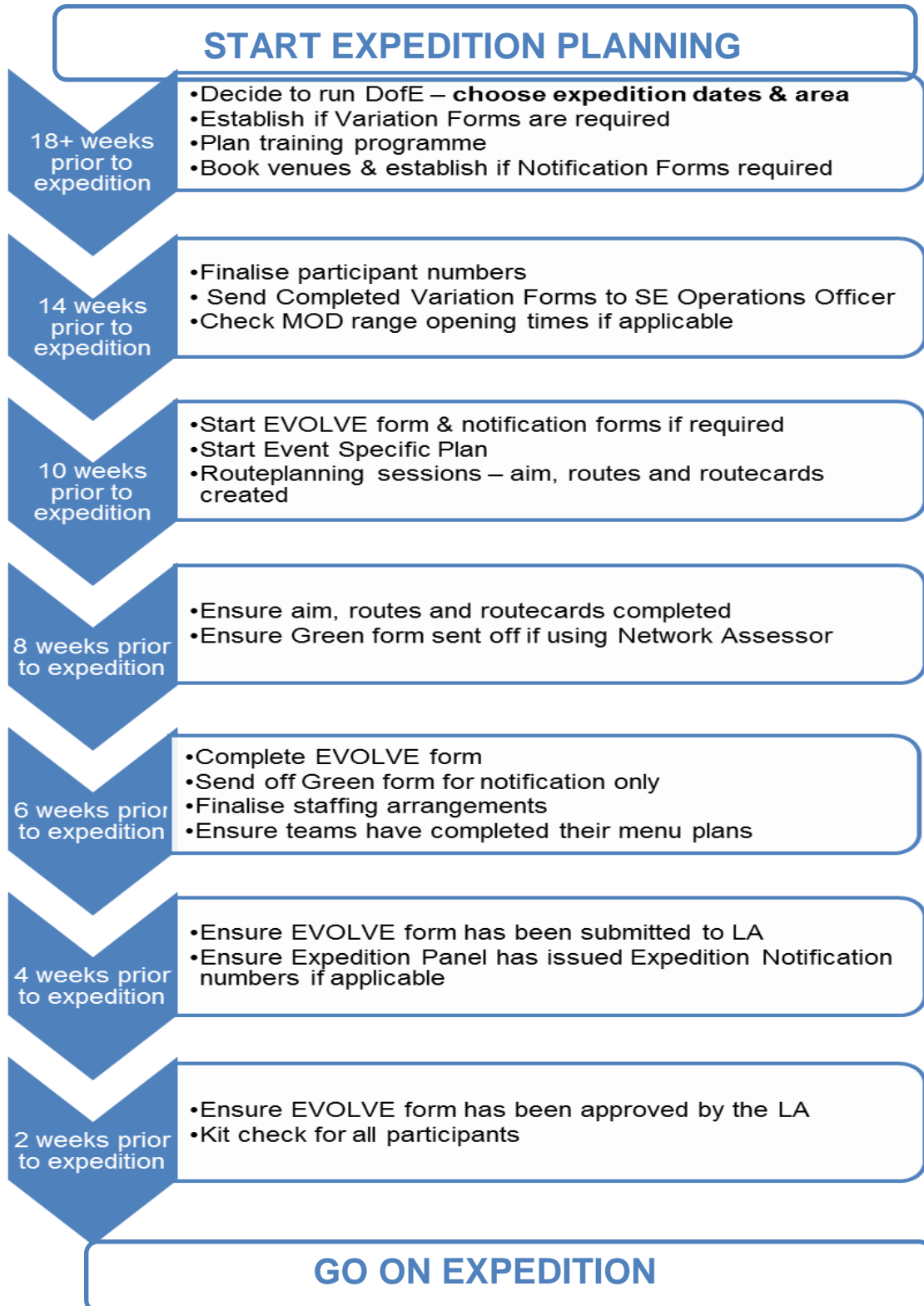
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EXPEDITION PLANNING PROCESS (DOFE001)



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WALKING EXPEDITION STAFFING RATIOS AND SUPERVISION (DOFE002)

Training exercises – Direct supervision

Practice Expeditions – Direct and close supervision

Assessment Expeditions – Normally remote supervision, using close when necessary

- Groups must be trained and supervised by appropriately qualified staff
- Ratios and supervision decided by Ocean Rock, based on numbers and agreed by CHA
- There should be a minimum of 1 staff member from Chiltern Hills Academy on any trip

QUALIFICATION AND SUPERVISING RATIOS

Expedition Type	Minimum Expedition Leader Qualification	Minimum Leader to Team ratio	Minimum Expedition Staff Qualification	Minimum Staff to Team ratio
Practice	LLA/BEL/CLA	One to four	Experienced Adult	One to two
Assessment	LLA/BEL/CLA	One to four	Experienced Adult	One to two

LOWLAND (e.g. Chiltern Hills, New Forest, Forest of Dean)

Expedition Type	Minimum Expedition Leader Qualification	Minimum Leader to Team ratio	Minimum Expedition Staff Qualification	Minimum Staff to Team ratio
Practice	HML/WGL	One to two	Experienced Adult	One to one
Assessment	HML/WGL	One to two	Experienced Adult	One to one

MOORLAND/UPLAND (e.g. Dartmoor, Peak District, Yorkshire Dales)

MOUNTAIN (e.g. Snowdonia, the Lake District, the Cairngorms)

Expedition Type	Minimum Expedition Leader Qualification	Minimum Leader to Team ratio	Minimum Expedition Staff Qualification	Minimum Staff to Team ratio
Practice	ML	One to two	Experienced Adult	One to one
Assessment	ML	One to two	Experienced Adult	One to one

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Examples

1. *7 young people on a Gold practice in one group would be accompanied by one ML. They would need another competent / experienced adult of the opposite gender on the trip, but this person does not need any specialist skill or experience. HOWEVER, 8 young people undertaking an identical expedition must be in two teams. So they need 2 ML holders, but no assistant.*
2. *14 Young people on a gold assessed would only need one ML holder and one competent assistant, as they are deemed competent by their supervisor and the expedition has undergone an approval process, AS LONG AS THEY ARE ONLY IN 2 TEAMS.*
3. *16 Young people on a gold practice trip and in 4 groups need 4 ML/WGL holders (one walking with each group). BUT, when they come to the assessed, they need 2 qualified and 2 experienced. However, if 2 drop out, and the groups decide to merge into 2 teams of 7, when it comes to the practice and qualifying, they only need 1 qualified and 1 competent / experienced assistant, as there are only 2 teams.*

Expedition Leaders should also hold:

- Current First Aid Qualification: Lowland minimum 8hrs, Moorland/Mountain minimum 16hrs (*more details in first aid section*)
- DofE accredited Expedition Supervisors Course
- Enhanced DBS check (previously CRB check)

An Experienced Adult should have:

- Knowledge of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Knowledge of the expedition environment
- Should have sufficient technical abilities to be self-sufficient in the environment
- Should be known to the Expedition Leader
- Should **not** be a parent of a participant

A designated Expedition Deputy Leader should be named who is competent to perform the duties of the Expedition Leader should the need arise.

If you are unsure about any of the above, please contact the SE DofE Operations Officer at the earliest opportunity.

EXPEDITION SUPERVISION ARRANGEMENTS (DOFE003)

- If the minimum staff ratios cannot be met, the SE DofE should be contacted to discuss appropriate supervision plans.
- Expedition staff will employ a range of supervision styles depending on the terrain, weather conditions and competence of the group.
- When NGB qualified staff are supervising two teams on assessed expeditions, the supervisor must be able to reach either team in the event of an emergency. This means both teams must be in the same area.
- Expedition staff will be familiar with the terms 'Direct Supervision', 'Close Supervision' and 'Remote Supervision' as described in the DofE Expedition Guide, 13th Edition, p165.

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- The Expedition Leader will perform a detailed location specific risk assessment, identify all local hazards on each group's route.
- At Silver Assessment and Gold level, groups may not be directly supervised overnight but participants must be checked into their camp in the evening, especially if wild camping. Participants must also know how to access staff overnight if issues arise, and clearly understand their escape routes and what to do in an emergency. This should also be clearly stated in the parental letter and event specific plan.

Additional guidance

- Clearly state how participants will be supervised, whether staff will be on the same campsites and define what 'wild camping' actually entails in the parental letters.
- Where necessary set up a base camp for the duration of the expedition and consider access to shelter or bunkhouse/camping barns.
- Assess how realistic it is for teams/leaders to access additional staff in an emergency. This will depend on how remote the routes go and the availability of phone reception.
- Plan for the worst case scenario by ensuring you have thought through and noted contingency plans and escape routes.
- For assessed events try to liaise with your assessor to ensure teams are not over/under supervised.

Late Back Procedure

- A formal written late back procedure should be included with the ESP.
- It is expected that one person will be nominated to control **all** communications with the Home Contact and Mountain Rescue, and then control distribution of search parties.

FIRST AID (DOFE004)

- All staff should hold a current first aid qualification. The recommended course is a 16hr outdoor-based course such as an ITC or REC accredited course.
- Expedition staff should carry a substantial first aid kit and spare personal medication for participants in their group e.g. epipens, inhalers. Any such medication is administered by Ocean Rock.
- All participants to have undertaken at least basic first aid training (in accordance with the DofE training syllabus).
- All participants must carry personal first aid kits/personal medication plus the group must share a larger first aid kit to cover more substantial first aid issues.
- Although we require our staff to be first aid trained, ultimately all first aid administration and care is carried out by Ocean Rock.

STAFF DOCUMENTATION (DOFE005)

It is expected that all staff on the expedition will carry the following documents:

- Event Specific Plan (or relevant risk assessments)
- Critical Incident Procedures.
- Medical Summary sheet (to include staff details).
- Summary list of all staff contact details & the emergency contact details.

The Expedition Leader & Expedition Deputy will carry in addition to the above:

- Hard copies of all the 'Consent Forms'.

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- Emergency contact details including doctors information for all participants & staff.

SERIOUS INCIDENT & NEAR MISS (DOFE006)

Where a 'Serious Incident' or 'Near Miss' has occurred an Incident Report should be completed. This should be attached to EVOLVE and emailed to the SE DofE who will then investigate & liaise with the Incident Team. For severe incidents the events Emergency Contact is asked to keep both Buckinghamshire County Council and the SE DofE Duty Officer up to date on the situation. Any serious incident or near miss must be logged with the Primary First Aider on returning to CHA, this will then be logged on the ANT system for the Principal to sign off.

Examples of a Serious Incident/Near Hit as defined by DofE Head Office are:

Serious Injury, Fatality, Emergency Services Call Out, Minor injuries (requiring GP or hospitalisation), Conflict with landowners or other members of the public, Near Miss

Centres are also expected to follow their own policies to conform to Health & Safety expectations such as internal investigations & RIDDOR forms.

Safeguarding

For the safety of staff and students there will be a minimum of 1 member of Chiltern Hills Academy staff available during expeditions. In the case where a member of the DofE team is unable to attend or is required to leave then a member of SLT will attend the expedition. Should there be a safeguarding issue, including an allegation made against a member of CHA staff, then CHA safeguarding procedures and Evolve emergency procedures should be followed. DofE staff are to contact the DSL using the number on Evolve. The DSL will then liaise with SLT and the student's parents, the member of staff or the students will be required to leave the expedition and a member of SLT will attend on behalf of the staff member. DofE are not to discuss the matter with anyone unless directed to do so by the DSL. In the event of the DSL being unavailable then the Principal must be contacted and he will implement the safeguarding procedure. If a student is unwell overnight during the expedition, then one male and one female expedition leaders will wake to assist with the student's needs. All adults attending the trip have received training in line with the latest Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) document. All staff have received and read part one of KCSIE.

WALKING EXPEDITIONS AT GOLD LEVEL – ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE (DOFE007)

Gold events are required to take place in Wild Country areas and a thorough training programme should be implemented to prepare participants for the challenges they will face. The practice expedition(s) should reflect the assessment process as much as possible with areas being identified that match the assessed location in terms of:

- Navigation
- Type of terrain, topography & steepness of terrain
- Remoteness
- Style of camping
- Weather (where possible)
- Journeying
- Duration

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For direct entrants (those who have not completed the previous level of the DofE award) then a bridging expedition is a good opportunity to bring participants up to the same level as those who hold a Silver award. Normally a bridging expedition is a long weekend in wild country and would still be expected to go through the same EVOLVE notification as any other DofE event and follow the appropriate policies.

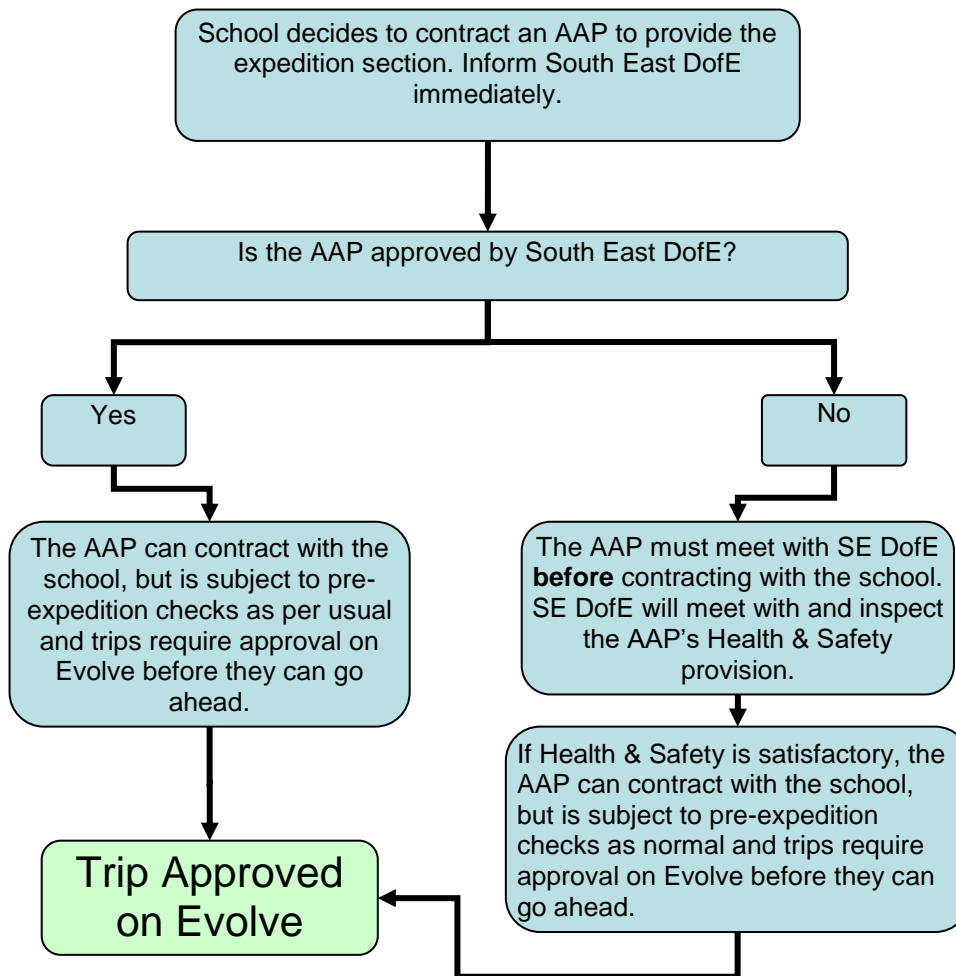
Overseas Expeditions

If you plan to run an overseas expedition this must be agreed by the SE DofE before participants are enrolled onto it. Please submit an over view of the plan including information on the training programme, practice and assessment.

USING APPROVED ACTIVITY PROVIDERS (AAPS) (DOFE008)

Approved Activity Providers are organisations that are licensed by the Duke of Edinburgh's Award to offer one or more sections of the Award to participants, usually the Expedition or Residential sections. AAPs are still subject to the same requirements as Buckinghamshire centres – an Evolve form must be submitted and is subject to SE DofE approval and all ratios listed in this document must be met. **An establishment staff member is still required to be present at all times for pastoral support.** The AAP Process Map below will show the procedures:

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THE VARIATION PROCESS (DOFE009)

Where participants have individual needs that mean one or more of the 20 Conditions cannot be met, they may apply for a variation to enable them to complete their DofE expedition.

The Expedition Variations application form must be submitted at least 12 weeks before the planned expedition, and after discussion with the SE DofE Operations Officer.

If the variation is for an overseas expedition, then advice should be sought as soon as possible. The process requests centres to provide:

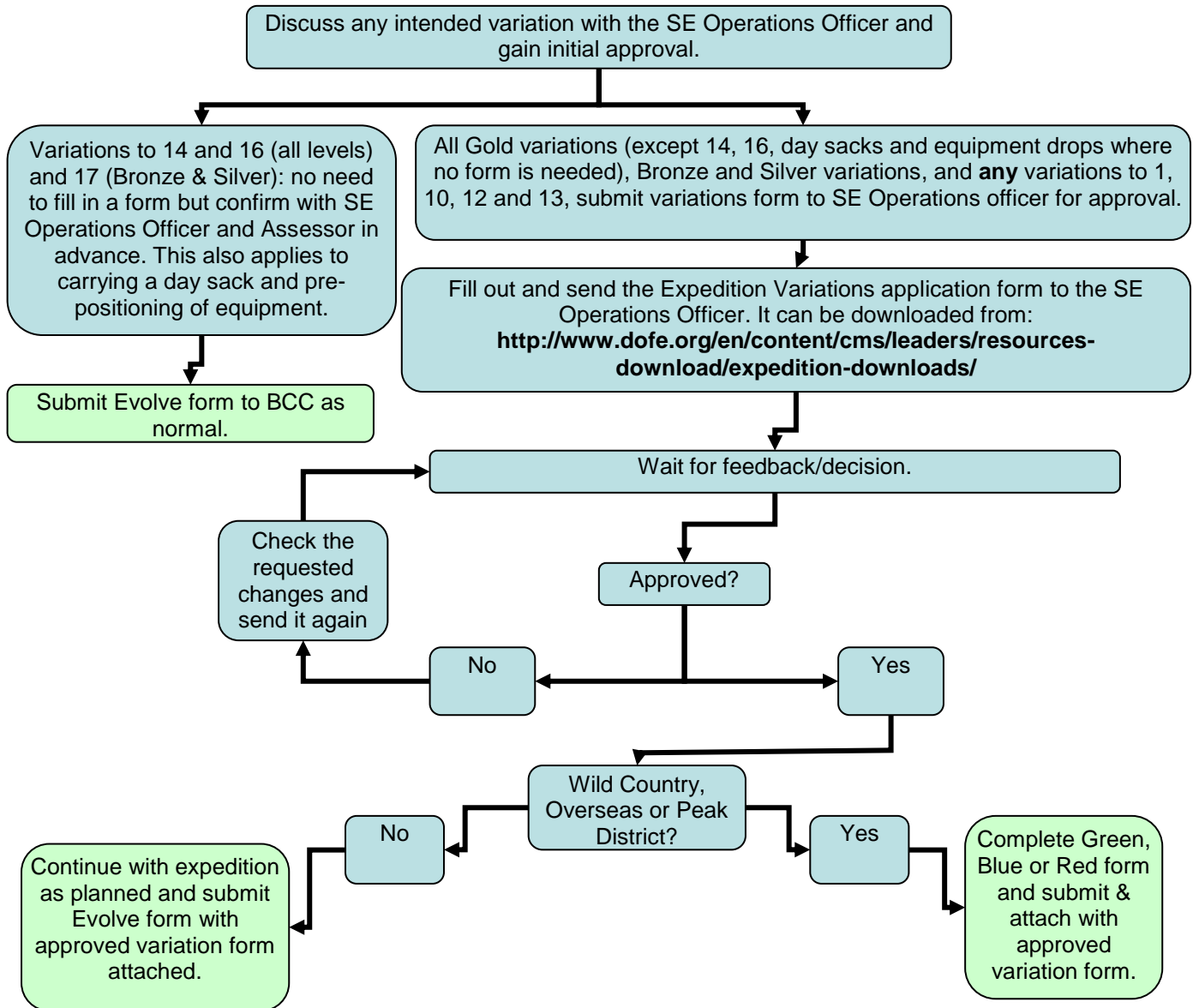
- An explanation as to why one or more of the conditions cannot be met
- A suitable alternative plan that leads to minimal impact
- Additional risk management (where appropriate)

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Some examples of reasons to apply for variation are:

- A participant who is unable to carry a full expedition rucksack for medical reasons
- A participant who requires a carer or worker to support for the duration
- Where a participant is unable to safely cook and requires a member of staff to support

Whatever the variation involves the following steps should be followed:



EVOLVE & NOTIFICATION (DOFE010)

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For expedition events to count towards a participant's DofE Award the expedition must be approved through EVOLVE.

Timeframes:

- **The event should be submitted by the Principal at least 4 weeks prior to it taking place.**
- **Late submission of an expedition event may result in it not being approved. If an event is not approved then it will not count towards a participant's DofE Award.**

Important Information:

- For centres undertaking expeditions abroad notification should go to the Academy's designated trips manager and the Local Authority as soon as the planning process is initiated.
- The 'Visit Leader' must be a school staff member, even when using an External Provider. The 'Visit Leader' is the school employee responsible for the pastoral duty of care the school owes its students. They should be present throughout the expedition.
- When naming the event include the level of the award, status of the event, centre name and note if it is an overseas expedition.
- If it is an assessed expedition the "accredited assessors" should be detailed in the staff documents with their assessor number.
- Variation forms should be attached onto the EVOLVE form as directed.
- Some events may require 'notification' through an assessor network, and Green/Red/Blue forms should be attached.
- **The SE Operations Officer should be copied into emails to Assessor Network Panels when submitting Green/Red/Blue forms.**

The SE DofE will be as supportive with this process as possible and advise that those who are unfamiliar with the system start the process as early as possible.

EVOLVE attachments:

The following documents should be attached to the form:

- Event Specific Plans **including location specific risk assessments**
- DofE Expedition Staff Information Form (qualifications/experience)
- Itinerary
- Variation Forms (as appropriate)
- Incident Reports (as appropriate)
- Green/Red/Blue forms (as appropriate)
- *Daily Report Form(s)

*Daily report forms are not compulsory for any centre event but are a good way of summarising each day of the expedition and consolidating all the information to one location.

In addition to this Expedition Leaders should ensure they review their EVOLVE forms within 2 weeks of returning from the event.

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Please see the 'Evolve Form DofE Guidance Notes' document for more information.

Abbreviations & Terminology

AALA – Adventurous Activity Licensing Authority: An organisation that is part of the Health & Safety Executive. AAPs must hold an AALA licence to offer expeditions in Wild Country.

Assessor Network – A panel covering each 'Wild Country' area within the UK. Centres must notify each area using Red, Green and Blue forms at least 6 weeks prior to the expedition. In addition they can provide access to assessors if required (formerly – 'Wild Country Panel').

BEAL – Basic Expedition Assistant Leader: A nationally recognised qualification, NVQ Level 2. Governing Body is Sports Leader UK

BEL – Basic Expedition Leader: A nationally recognised qualification, NVQ Level 3. Governing body is Sports Leader UK.

Centre/Unit: Chiltern Hills Academy, Direct Licensed Organisation.

CLA – Countryside Leaders Award: A regionally recognised qualification. Governing body Strong Roots Training.

Close Supervision – where the Supervisor is close enough to intervene if necessary, in order to offer support and guidance and/or to stop mistakes being made. (Ref: DofE Expedition Guide:13th Edition p.165).

Daily Report Form – A form used to note 'clear days,' minor incidents, notes of importance for expeditions (see appendix 3).

Direct Supervision – where the Supervisor is in direct contact with the team and is accompanying them. (Ref: DofE Expedition Guide:13th Edition p.165).

Expedition Team – Must be between 4-7 participants.

Expedition Variation – where participants have individual needs that mean one or more of the 20 conditions cannot be met ((Ref: DofE Expedition Guide:13th Edition p.14 and *The 20 conditions of the Expedition Section* – www.dofe.org).

Incident Report Form – A form attached to the 'Serious Incident Cards' found on EVOLVE, used to note details of severe incidents/crises.

HML – Hill & Moorland Leader: A nationally recognised qualification. Governing body is the Mountain Leader Training Board. Replaces the Walking Group Leader award.

LLA – Lowland Leader Award. A nationally recognised qualification. Governing body is the Mountain Leader Training Board. This must include the Expedition Skills Module.

ML – Mountain Leader: A nationally recognised qualification. Governing body is the Mountain Leader Training Board.

MOD – Ministry of Defence.

NGB – National Governing Body. An organisations that administers an award such as the Mountain Leader Award.

Ratios

Please read ratios carefully and understand that at times ratios refer to the number of staff to participants and at other times refer to the number of staff to groups.

Staff to participants will always be written in this format **1 : 7**

Staff to groups will always be written in this format **one to four**

Remote Supervision – Where the Supervisor remains out of site and hearing of the team and allows them to get on with the expedition without any intervention. (Ref: DofE Expedition Guide:13th Edition p.165).

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Supervision Plan – A form designed by the DofE for noting potential supervision options for groups, the form can be downloaded from the DofE website (www.dofe.org). This should be used in conjunction with the location specific risk assessment.

SE- South East Regional Office, Duke of Edinburgh

Unit Agreement (formerly SLA) – is an agreement between the South East Regional Office and Chiltern Hills Academy.

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MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed when there are changes in the law or at least every two years, to assess implementation and effectiveness.

This policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the Academy.