



East Coast Outdoors

a Community Interest Company

Guidance to School Staff

The role of accompanying students on their DofE Expedition should be seen as a positive step to enhance their experience, provide students with a familiar face and lead to a better all-round performance.

How much you participate in the expedition is up to you, some teachers relax in the campsite and some are fully “hands on” and want to participate in the experience with students. School staff provide a pastoral role and assist with any non-DofE issues which may arise e.g medical, personal, emotional, or family issues.

In our experience it really helps to have staff that know the students, as this can often assist with a swift resolution to issues that may otherwise hamper the progress of the individual and team.

We have created a short question and answer section below to aid your preparation and understanding:

Will I be expected to camp and stay overnight?

Yes - School staff are expected to be self-sufficient for the duration of the expedition, which includes camping and self-catering. If you want us to provide you with equipment, please ask.

Will I be able to follow groups and know where students are?

Yes - We can provide you with resources that you need to follow and meet groups en-route in a non-supervisory role. We use a mixture of maps, route plans and GPS trackers to know where groups are at all times.

What happens if a student asks for advice?

Always defer back to a member of our trained leaders. Students will assume that you have the same knowledge as leaders, which may or not be the case, so please be cautious when offering advice.

What happens on a practice/training expedition?

Our leaders will be training the teams, walking with them and eventually releasing them into “remote supervision”, they will be walking for about 4 hours on the first day and 6 hours on the second day.

School staff usually get up with the teams and see them off . You may choose to shadow a team with one of our leaders or meet them en-route if you have transport. If you do not have transport, we can offer you a lift in one of the leaders cars.

Alternatively you may decide to spend time relaxing in the campsite or visiting local shops/attractions, all that we ask is that you are within about 30 mins of the expedition area in case we need you.

What does remote supervision mean?

In order for a student to successfully complete a qualifying expedition, they must undertake it under remote supervision. This means that our leaders will not walk with or supervise them.

What happens on a qualifying expedition?

Students are expected to be “independent and self-sufficient”, the only things we can provide is encouragement and water. They are expected to erect their tents themselves and cook entirely on their own.

If there is an incident who will take charge?

Our leaders hold first aid qualifications, safeguarding certificates and DBS checks. They all have training in dealing with incidents in the outdoors. Please always look to them for direction.



**Please direct questions to Bert Park via email
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