Pathways to Success

Mini D of E

What is Mini D of E?

Mini DofE is a physical based intervention programme that enables learners to be able to master key life skills. Learners are not necessarily conscious they are doing this, it is indirectly taught. In this physical based intervention learners are able to build up friendships and work as part of a group whilst enjoying the freedom of the great outdoors. Mini DofE enables learners who display behaviours to forget about the classroom or stress from any part of life and enjoy making their own choices. In the community, the intervention is pupil lead. This encourages learners to be able to be the leader, and learn to organise the group.

Key Principles

To focus on friendships, resilience, group work and independent skills. This encourages all learners to add to the group and get the task completed.

What does a session look like?

Mini DofE sessions do not follow an explicit structure, as structure sometimes allows staff to overtake and not let the learners lead the session, depending on the group the outcomes become different. Mini DofE is targeted to learner need, for example, if the learners in the group have problems with building friendships, then that will be the outcome of the session. There are key themes within the session. Learners gathering their own equipment, reiterating expectations and an expedition (see lesson plans).

What is the general profile for a learner accessing Mini D of E?

Mini DofE benefits all learners. In particular; any learner that is struggling in a classroom-based environment, learners that are finding it hard to build friendships and learners that can focus better by having an outdoor classroom in order for them to be able to achieve maximum focus and input in core curriculum subjects.

How is evidence captured and assessed?

The data is captured on an iPad and then gathered into a report compiled at the end of the session to ensure all relevant information is captured, and to assess if objectives learners are struggling with in class have been achieved. Learners carry out a learner voice, this is used as evidence of what is working well within the sessions and what can be further refined.

How long does a learner generally stay on a Mini DofE intervention (including rationale)?

Each KS1-3 class is entitled to 1 Mini D of E class per half term.

The Mini DofE is offered out to all classes over a half term and enables learners to be able to enjoy at least one intervention every half term, the response from Mini DofE from staff and learners has been exceptionally positive.