



# The Compass Award

a program of discovery for young people aged 10 - 14 years old

The Compass Award is modelled on The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award and is designed to enhance development of the individual child. Students aged 10-14 years old choose their own challenging activities which are interesting, exciting and heaps of fun!

The Compass Award fosters positive attitudes towards learning while complementing the curriculum, whilst also building an environment for positive engagement and interaction between the student, staff and family members.

Participants undertaking the Compass Award are given the opportunity to try new things and learn new skills and in the process, develop initiative and commitment, becoming more responsible and motivated young people.

*"I have really enjoyed trying new things that I wouldn't have been able to do if I wasn't doing The Compass Award,"*

- Level 2 Participant

The program is structured over four progressive levels. To achieve The Compass Award at any Level, young people create a unique program of activities (for a set length of time) across four Sections:

**Physical Activity** (eg. sport or dance)

**Hobbies / Skill** (eg. art, music, cooking)

**Volunteering** (eg. at school or in the community)

**Exploration** (eg. an excursion, bushwalk or bike ride)



- Tailored to each individual
- Non-competitive
- Increases confidence
- Builds leadership skills
- Develops resilience
- Unleashes skills & talents
- It's FUN!

## Benefits for Participants

Compass Award Participants will develop self-esteem, confidence, resilience, an awareness of the community and a desire to help others. Furthermore, they will develop a feeling of ownership and engagement in their formal and informal education.



Participants build leadership skills and qualities and through these may take up opportunities not usually available.

This program is an opportunity for young people to take the initiative to try and learn about something they might not otherwise. It is the chance to gain the benefits of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at an earlier age.

We engage, equip and recognise young people.

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# Steps to get started:

There are 4 levels of The Compass Award, each level is broadly aimed at the corresponding age, eg Level 1 for those aged 10 years, Level 2 for those aged 11 and so on. Participants are encouraged to undertake their activities over a period of time rather than complete Award requirements in a single session.

Once a Participant has registered for the appropriate level (with the help of a parent or Award Coordinator) they can start The Award by following these simple steps to get started:

## 1. Choose Award activities

The structure of the program gives Participants the chance to develop in key areas contributing to their overall wellbeing. The Award Sections are designed specifically to;

- enhance their physical wellbeing, through Physical Activity
- enhance their mind, through Hobbies/Skill
- connect with their community through Volunteering/Service
- learn about their environment through Exploration

Participants may choose activities that they are already involved in or activities that are completely new to them. It is not necessary to have identified all activities at the start, Participants may commence their Sections at any time.



## 2. Identify activity Assessors

- Participants must have an Assessor (mentor) for every Award activity.
- The Assessor is an adult who is more skilled or experienced than them in that activity and willing to mentor them to pursue their goals.
- Although parents and family members are encouraged to help participants with their Award activities, the Assessor should not be related to the Participant.
- The Assessor can be a teacher, coach or a family friend.

### Tip for Participants:

Choose Assessors who will inspire you and have the motivation to support you through your Award journey.

## 3. Set Goals for each activity

- Participants should work with each Assessor to set themselves challenging goals for each activity.
- Work towards an end point, plan The Award to fit with other commitments.

### Goals should be S.M.A.R.T.

(Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely)



## 4. Recording hours and completion

- Participants receive a Record Book in which they must record their hours of participation for each activity and their Assessors must write a brief report about the Participants effort and progress.
- On completion of all requirements for the level being undertaken, Record Books must be submitted to the Award Coordinator for approval before a badge and certificate are presented to the Participant.
- Only one level of The Compass Award may be undertaken at a time, all requirements for each Level must be completed before Participants may progress to the next level.

On completion of The Compass Award participants are encouraged to continue onto The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Participants must be 14 years old to commence the Bronze Award.