

Duke of Edinburgh Award – An Introduction

Bellringing is a recognised activity that can be used by participants working towards their Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) award, offered (or supported) by many schools and Uniformed Groups. This page contains information and guidance on ways in which a young person can incorporate ringing in their award, and their progress assessed. These approaches should not be considered prescriptive, nor should they be deemed the only possible solution; rather, they are guidance on *possible* ways to measure and sign off on success.

The DofE Scheme itself has three levels; Bronze, Silver and Gold, the suggested timescales for achieving each of these can be found on the DofE Website: [DofE Timescales](#).

As with any activity undertaken in DofE, the keys to a positive outcome are:

- 1) Ensure all success criteria are agreed between the selected assessor and the candidate (or parent/guardian) prior to embarking on the task.
- 2) Ensure progress is measured regularly to ensure things are 'on target'.
- 3) Maintain high standards at all times during the assessment period.

Skills

The majority of candidates will be looking to use Bellringing to complete the 'Skill' section of the Award Scheme ([DofE Skill Section](#) - Bellringing can be found under the Music heading). A table of progress, by which a candidate can set targets and measure their progress, has been produced, and can be found in the [Library Resources](#).

Volunteering

Whilst less common, it is possible for participants to instead use bellringing to complete their [Volunteering](#) section. However, the young person is strongly advised to consult with their DofE assessor to ensure their plans meet the criteria. Simply turning up to ring for Sunday Service for six months is unlikely to be deemed adequate. However, taking an active role in a tower (for instance, as Assistant Ringing Master or Secretary), or getting involved with teaching, recruiting, bell restoration or any equivalent programme, would qualify for this section.

Resources

Further information on DofE, may be found in the [Library Resources](#) and [Uniformed Groups](#) pages, as well as the [DofE website](#) itself.