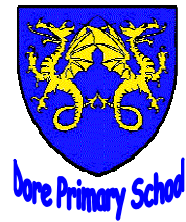


Merit Stamps



School merit stamps or points are a very common practice in many schools as a method for teachers to assure children when they are making clear progress towards some of their personal targets. At Dore Merit Awards range from Bronze through to Platinum.

It is a personalised approach which means that it would be very difficult to compare the occasions when a stamp is awarded or to compare numbers gained just at face value. For example a small child who has great difficulty in sitting still and focusing on the teacher in order to learn may well receive a merit stamp when they show they are beginning to focus in this way. Another child in the class may receive a stamp when they begin to volunteer answers regularly in a teaching session if they have been used to a more quiet approach letting others answer. A child may receive a merit stamp if they have been inspired to go home and research a topic and bring some valuable information in to support their learning as in Learning at Home. A merit may be given for an increase to 10 lines of writing if a child has had difficulties in getting their thoughts on paper and usually only manages 2. A merit may be given when a child has completed a full piece of work with clear thinking and good presentation.

We talk in assemblies to try to clarify this with the children and the teachers will be very clear with individual children about why merits are awarded and what their personal targets and teacher expectations are. This is a very good method of personalising learning for the children, helping individuals understand the next steps to move forward and in helping the children take responsibility for their own learning.

We aim to reward small steps of academic progress and larger ones. Children visit the HT or DH when they receive an award, and are presented with a certificate in Achievement Assembly. We keep records of how the children are progressing through the Merit system.