

Questions and Suggestions from Parents

How do you monitor number of merits being given?

- Teachers monitor individuals within the classroom. Management team will be monitoring across classes to ensure consistency across the school.

Make it easier to achieve gold

- Staff have discussed this but we feel that to reduce the standard required would make the award less prestigious.

It's a big jump from Silver to Gold – can there be something in between?

- We've discussed this but this would mean even more pupils being presented at Award Ceremonies and ceremonies can already be quite lengthy. However, we will recognise those who achieve 75 or more Merits with a special Certificate of Encouragement presented during a school assembly.

Reward 'good' kids with more merits as opposed to the 'disruptive' ones

- We feel that equal and all levels of effort are rewarded and teachers monitor individuals in their classrooms. All children should have equal access to merits.

Merits sometimes not used properly – don't know what they are issued for

- We've produced this guide in response to this statement

Revitalise Merit System

- We'll continue to refresh and revitalise with new ideas.

Child gets 100% in spelling tests but receives no merit – others get merits for less; more need to be given for academic achievement

- Staff recognise this and monitor children's achievement over a period of time eg. Merits awarded to a child consistently achieving well in spelling, homework, behaviour, etc.

FERRYHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

BEHAVIOUR POLICY A GUIDE TO MERITS



Who awards Merits?

- Teachers
- Senior Leadership Team
- Pupil Support Staff
- Early Years Staff
- Office Staff

25

When are Merits awarded?

Children are awarded Merits over a period of time or for one occasion of special mention eg. for consistently achieving well in spelling tests:

- Good behaviour
- Good manners
- Being particularly kind, caring, helpful
- Achieving targets
- Exceptional work – writing, drawing, PE etc
- Exceptional playground behaviour and attitude
- Effort in homework that goes above what is expected
- Consistently setting a good example through the wearing of uniform
- Best effort

50

100

- Respect for class, resources, environment
- Respectful attitude towards others
- Conduct on school trips
- Participation in class assemblies / class activities / school events
- Team work
- Litter patrol, buddy duty or prefect duty particularly well done

When are Certificates Awarded?

25 MERITS



50 MERITS



100 MERITS



What happens when a child achieves a Bronze Merit?

When a child achieves 25 Merits the teacher informs the Head Teacher and we send an invitation to parents/family to attend our Bronze Merit Award Ceremony. We try to give at least a week's notice and offer the opportunity for an alternative date for presentation to help family commitments. We arrange for the child to meet with the Head Teacher and the child's profile sheet is completed and added to the Bronze Award Book. Depending on commitments, it may take a bit of time between achieving a Merit and meeting with the Head Teacher.

Award Ceremony

Our Award Ceremonies are very special events where Bronze Merit Certificates are presented by the Head Teacher in the presence of the whole school (or with a P1/2 and P3/7 split if there are many awards). Each child enters the hall to a fanfare of music and takes their place on the stage. Each child is then called out for their presentation before taking the chance for family photographs. A photograph is taken of the child after the ceremony and photographs are displayed in our Merit Award Gallery. Everyone appreciates the very high attendance of parents and families at our Award Ceremonies.

What happens when a child achieves a Silver Merit?

When a child achieves 50 Merits we send an invitation through the post for the child to attend our Silver Merit Celebration Party. This is where children meet with the Head Teacher in the staff room to enjoy refreshments and the chance to talk with other Silver Merit achievers from across the school.

What happens when a child achieves a Gold Merit?

A Gold Merit Award is an extremely high achievement. The high standard required is recognised at our P7 Valedictory Service when Gold Medals are presented. The first child to achieve Gold has their name engraved on our shield. When a child achieves a Gold Merit, they are given the opportunity to call home and to visit all the other classes in the school to celebrate their achievement.