



Bell Ringing for DofE Award Candidates



Introduction

This document is designed to provide an approach to assess the progress of those who have chosen Bellringing as an activity to achieve their DofE award. It is provided simply to provide guidance on possible way to assess and sign off success. The approaches detailed should not be considered prescriptive, nor should they be deemed the only possible solution. The keys to a positive outcome using this approach 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.

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 here: [DofE Timescales](#).

Although the majority of candidates will be looking to use Bellringing to achieve an award in the 'Skill' section of the Award Scheme ([DofE Skill Section](#) - Bellringing can be found under the Music heading), it may be possible for them to achieve in the [Volunteering](#) section as well under either of the 'Helping a charity or community organisation' or 'Coaching, teaching and leadership' headings. For the Service element the candidate is strongly advised to consult DofE directly to ensure their plans for volunteering are acceptable. Simply turning up to ring for Sunday Service for 6 months may not be deemed adequate under the 'Helping a community organisation' section.

Click the logo below to get to the home page of the DofE website:



High Level Guide to using this Document.

The candidate agrees with their assessor (for example, the local Tower Captain, but also see [Choosing DofE Assessors](#)), which box most accurately describes where they sit with their ringing development to date, and which path is the best to be followed to evidence progression. The path chosen should be achievable for the number of bells available and the strength of the supporting band. Depending on the award sought (Bronze/Silver/Gold), the candidate must achieve any two boxes to the right for Bronze (3-6 months), any three boxes to the right for Silver (6-12 months) and any 4 boxes for Gold (12-18 months).

Although not mandatory for success, the candidate should be highly encouraged to look beyond the ringing of bells alone and aim to complete elements within the 'Social' and 'Maintenance' sections, especially for the Silver and Gold awards. Ideally the candidate would achieve the required progress against one of the ringing categories, as well as complete some activities from Social and Maintenance (more activities for Silver than Bronze and more for Gold than Silver) all at the assessor's discretion.

Notes to the Tables of Progress

The table of progress on the next page describes several options for measuring progress depending on the current capabilities of the candidate and the facilities available to them. There are 7 paths to choose from as follows.

Blue Path – For candidates with access to 6 or fewer bells
Red Path – For candidates with access to 8 bells.
Yellow Path – For candidates with good existing experience with access to 8 bells
Purple Path – For candidates with good existing experience with access to 10 or more bells.
Green Path – For candidates from towers where call change ringing is actively or exclusively practiced.
Orange Path – For candidates wishing to pursue handbell ringing starting at a basic level.
White Path – For candidates wishing to pursue handbell ringing starting at a more advanced level.

- In reality very few candidates will follow the Purple or Green paths, however they are included to cover exceptional circumstances.
- It is important that the path chosen can be supported by the band around the candidate.

Abbreviations Used in the Table	
CC - Call Changes	S6 - Surprise Minor
PB – Plain Bob	S8 – Surprise Major
PC – Plain Course	S10 – Surprise Royal
PH – Plain Hunt	S12 – Surprise Maximus
QP – Quarter Peal	TB – Treble Bob
	TD - Treble Dodging

Quality and Commitment

It is important that the assessor ensures good quality is achieved at each stage. Completing all tasks with minimal mistakes and to a good standard of striking is of paramount importance. It is also important that the candidate shows a good level of commitment by turning up on time and for every session agreed upon. Should the local tower band not be strong enough to provide the support required for success, it is strongly advised that help should be sought from neighbouring towers, or the candidate be advised to visit other nearby towers that potentially have a stronger band.

All success criteria should be fully agreed between the assessor and candidate before embarking on activities.

A Simple Example

Amy is an existing ringer and would like to use Bell Ringing to achieve her Silver Skill award. She is 14 years old and can already ring plain courses of Plain Bob Doubles inside. If Amy were from a 6 bell tower she would need to complete 'any' three boxes to the right of box 5 on the Blue Path. If she were from an 8 bell tower she would need to complete 'any' three boxes to the right of box 4 on either the red or yellow paths.

Tables of Progress for Change Ringing on Tower Bells (Ringing Skill)

Level	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Blue Path 6 or fewer bells	Never rung before	Able to handle a bell confidently unassisted and show good control.	Ring rounds and simple CCs unassisted	Ring PH on a chosen bell (eg: treble) or cover to PH unassisted.	Ring PCs of PB/ Grandsire inside, or Ring a QP on the treble.	Ring touches of PB / Grandsire inside with minimal assistance.	Learn and ring another method. Examples: Stedman St Clements Little Bob	Accurately TB to a method or Ring a QP on an inside bell (any method)	Ring PCs of Kent or Oxford TB Minor with minimal assistance
Level	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Blue Path 6 or fewer bells	Ring touches of Kent or Oxford TB Minor or TB to a QP.	Ring a QP of TB Minor inside	Ring PCs of an S6 method such as Cambridge or Norwich	Ring Touches of S6 inside	Ring PCs of an S6 method with wrong hunting eg: London	Ring touches of an S6 method with wrong hunting	Ring a QP of S6	Ring touches of Spliced Minor in at least 4 methods.	

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Level	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Red Path 6 and 8 bells	Never rung before	Able to handle a bell confidently, unassisted and show good control of the bell	Ring rounds and simple call changes unassisted	Ring Plain Hunt on a chosen bell (eg: Treble) or cover behind to Plain Hunt unassisted.	Ring plain courses of PB/ Grandsire inside, or Ring a QP on the Treble.	Ring touches of Plain Bob / Grandsire inside with minimal assistance.	Able to ring touches of Plain Bob Triples or Major inside with minimal assistance	Ring touches of Grandsire Triples Inside or ring a QP on an inside bell (any method)	Learn and ring another method on 7/8 bells. <u>Examples:</u> Stedman St Clements Little Bob
Level	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Red Path 6 and 8 bells	Ring the Treble to any Treble Dodging Major method.	Ring a QP of anything learned so far but do not repeat boxes 5 or 8.	Ring plain courses of Kent or Oxford TB Major	Ring touches of Kent or Oxford TB Major	Ring plain courses of a Surprise Major method such as Cambridge or Yorkshire	Able to ring touches of Surprise Major inside	Ring a Quarter Peal of Surprise Major	Ring plain courses of a Surprise Major method which includes wrong hunting eg: London or Bristol	

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Level	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Yellow Path 6 to 8 bells (Advanced)	Able to ring Plain Bob or Grandsire on 6 or 8.	Able to ring plain courses of Stedman Doubles/Triples	Able to ring touches of Stedman Doubles/Triples	Able to ring the Treble to Treble Dodging Minor/Major	Ring a Quarter Peal of Stedman Doubles/Triples or Treble Dodging Minor/Major	Able to ring touches of Kent or Oxford Treble Bob Minor/Major	Able to ring plain courses of Cambridge Minor/Major or equivalent	Able to ring touches of Cambridge Minor/Major or equivalent	Ring a quarter peal of Surprise Minor/Major inside.
Level	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Yellow Path 6 to 8 bells (Advanced)	Able to ring London Minor and/or London/Bristol Major	Able to ring touches of Spliced TD Minor/ Major	Ring a quarter peal of Spliced TD Minor /Major	Able to ring Glasgow and Belfast Surprise Major	Able to ring Stedman Caters or a Surprise Royal Method	Ring a Peal of TD Minor/ Major or Royal	Able to ring all methods from Std 8 and Core 7 TD Major	Able to ring Norman Smith's 23 Spliced	

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Level	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Purple Path Higher Numbers	Able to ring Plain Hunt on 10 or 12 bells	Able to ring touches Grandsire Caters/ Cinques	Able to ring Touches of Grandsire Caters/ Cinques	Able to ring Touches of Stedman Caters/ Cinques	Ring a Quarter Peal on 10 or 12 bells.	Able to ring touches of Kent or Oxford Royal/ Maximus	Able to ring touches of Cambridge/Yorkshire Royal or Maximus	Ring a Quarter Peal of TD Royal or Maximus	Able to ring two other right place TD Royal or Maximus
Level	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Purple Path Higher Numbers	Able to ring London No3 S Royal (or equivalent)	Able to ring Bristol Surprise Royal or Maximus	Ring a Peal on 10 or 12 bells.	Able to ring two other wrong place TD Royal or Maximus Methods	Able to ring Orion or Rigel Surprise Maximus	Able to ring Pipe's Cyclic 6	Able to ring ORABS	Able to ring London No3 S Royal (or equivalent)	

Tables of Progress for Call Change Ringing and Handbell Ringing (Ringing Skill)

Level	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Green Path Call Changes	Never Rung before	Able to 'coil up' and raise a bell	Able to lower a bell and taking clois	Able to strike a bell accurately in rounds (closed hands and tails up)	Able to effectively move a bell 'up and down' on 3 or 4 bells	Able to accurately hunt a bell up through Queens	Able to accurately hunt a bell down through Queens	Ring a 60 on an observation bell	<i>Ring a 60 on the hunting bell</i>
Level	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Green Path Call Changes	Ring a 120 on an observation bell	Ring a 120 on a half hunt bell	Ring 120 on the hunting bell	Ring 120 with Tenor in on an observation bell	Ring 120 with Tenor in on a half hunt bell	Ring 120 with Tenor in on the hunting bell	Ring 120 with Tenor in on the Tenor (turn the tenor in)	Compose and Call own call change comp.	

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Level	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Orange Path Handbells (Basic)	Never rung handbells before.	Able to effectively strike a handbell at both strokes	Able to ring competent (rhythmic) rounds on 6 or 8 bells	Able to seamlessly swap the pair and hand and backstrokes	Able to confidently hunt a coursing pair on 6 bells	Able confidently ring the 34 and 23 positions for hunting on 6 bells.	Able to ring a plain course of Plain Bob Minor on the Trebles	Able to ring a plain course of Plain Bob Minor on 56 and 34	Able to ring a touch of Plain Bob Minor on the Trebles
Level	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Orange Path Handbells (Basic)	<i>Able to ring a touch of Plain Bob Minor of 34 or 56</i>	<i>Ring a QP of Plain Bob Minor on any pair.</i>	<i>Ring Treble Bob Hunting on 6, on all pairs</i>	<i>Ring Kent TB Minor on the Trebles</i>	<i>Ring Kent TB Minor on 34 or 56</i>	<i>Ring a touch of Kent TB Minor on any pair</i>	<i>Ring a QP of Kent TB Minor</i>	<i>Ring a QP of another Minor Method (eg: St Clements)</i>	

Level	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
White Path Handbells (Advanced)									

Other Possible Areas of Involvement

The tables below describe some of the activities that candidates should be encouraged to engage with. This is by no means an exhaustive list of what can be done, but rather some ideas for what can be offered as options. It is highly desirable that candidates, especially at the Silver and Gold levels are encouraged to take part in activities which do not involve the actual ringing of bells.

Item	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Social	Attend a social event with your local tower (E.g pub after practice/ Sunday morning Coffee etc)	Attend Sunday morning ringing (either to just observe or if good enough, ring as well)	Attend a youth practice with the local district band or another local practice.	Attend a branch/ district practice.	Regularly attend the practice of another tower in addition to your home tower.	Go on a tower outing.	Ring in or attend a striking competition.	Write a report for any of; church magazine/ branch magazine/ RW etc	Organise a quarter peal (Don't necessarily need to ring in it)
Item	J	K	L	M	N	O	P		
Social	Run your local practice.	Organise a tower social event (BBQ, curry night etc)	Organise a peal. (Don't necessarily need to ring in it)	Organise a quarter peal day.	Organise a tower outing with more than 4 towers (including you running at least one).	Teach someone how to handle a bell. Giving, more than one lesson!	Hold a role within a tower/ branch. (Steeple keeper, Tower Captain, Deputy Tower Captain etc)		

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Item	A	B	C	D	E
Maintenance	Be able to describe the major parts of a bell and its fittings, including their function.	Understand how a bell works full circle and go up to see the bells.	Perform a general check on the bells, including some practical work on the bells. i.e, silencing bells, oiling etc.	Perform a thorough inspection on the bells. (Checking stays, ropes, pulley boxes etc)	Replace a stay or go through the procedure to replace a stay. Could involve removing and measuring stays in case of a break
Item	F	G	H	I	J
Maintenance	Inspect the clappers, clapper bushes and washers and replace if required.	Splice a rope and learn how to replace the rope on the wheel.	Inspect, remove and service the pulley boxes.	Completely overhaul the bells with the help of an expert.	Help a bellfounder with a rehang project.