



Announcing the Launch of the Junior Duke Award Scheme 2025



**Silsden Primary
School**

18th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Once again we will be funding the Junior Duke award for all children in our school. We hope that as many of you as possible see the value in this scheme and become fully engaged with it. The scheme forms part of our school offer to promote pupil's wider development beyond the academic, and links closely with our Silsden Seven Threads of Learning, the School Climbing Wall and our PSHE and Outdoor Learning Curriculum.

The awards are designed to encourage **independence, confidence, resilience, understanding of others** and **self-motivation**, and prepare children to become well rounded citizens. We believe that these skills will give them a valuable "tool kit" to help them navigate and succeed in their secondary education and teenage years. It may even make them more helpful around the house!

Each of the levels has a selection of challenges and, in order to complete a level, the children need to finish a pre-determined number of these successfully (normally 10 out of a possible 14). These include skills such as First Aid, ICT, Eco Awareness, Drama, Music, Sport and other life skills such as cookery and puncture repair. Some of the challenges will require a good deal of time and effort out of school with friends and family. Time spent achieving and discussing the awards with your children is extremely valuable.

On completion of a level, a well-earned certificate and badge (to be worn in school!) will be awarded. Children should aim to finish their challenges by the end of the school year. In addition to this the school will be holding a special celebration day at the end of the Summer Term to celebrate all those who have completed the awards during the year.

Unfortunately, last year some parents failed to see the benefits of this initiative and blatantly abused the scheme by completing the booklets themselves or doing them all superficially in one go in July – just so their child could attend the celebration event. I hope that parents will not do this this year and truly invest time with their children in undertaking and recording the activities, therefore giving their children the developmental opportunities that are intended. Teachers will have a veto when signing off the individual challenges children bring into school. If staff feel that there has been an obvious lack of effort and engagement, they will not sign it off and the award will be deemed as not completed.

We will be displaying some great examples of completed awards and celebrating completed booklets in school with the children throughout the year, to help encourage more engagement and successful completion.

I would like to thank Mrs. Hazlehurst for leading and organizing the Junior Duke award in school. She will be leading a launch assembly with the children in school today. Please also read the flyer attached which gives further insight into the award and the benefits for your children.

Yours faithfully,

K.S.Russell
Headteacher