

## Poole Coat of Arms



The design of the coat of arms originated in a seal from the late 14th century and were recorded by Clarenceux King of Arms during the heraldic visitation of Dorset in 1563. The wavy bars of black and gold represent the sea and the dolphin is a sign of Poole's maritime interests. The scallop shells are the emblem of Saint James and are associated with his shrine at Santiago de Compostela – a popular destination for Christian pilgrims departing from Poole Harbour in the Middle Ages.

The arms were confirmed by the College of Arms on 19 June 1948, and at the same time, the crest (a mermaid supporting an anchor and holding a cannonball) was granted. Following local government reorganisation in 1974, the 1948 arms were transferred to Poole Borough Council. In 1976, the council received the grant of supporters for the coat of arms. The supporters refer to important charters given to the town; to the left is a gold lion holding a long sword representing William Longespee who in 1248 granted the town's first charter; on the right is a dragon holding the Silver Oar Mace representing the Admiral of the Port, derived from the Royal Arms of Elizabeth I who granted Poole county corporate status in 1568. The Latin motto – *Ad Morem Villae De Poole*, means: *According to the Custom of the Town of Poole*, and derives from the Great Charter of 1568.

## Historic Poole Arms

The original Poole Arms are based on the 14<sup>th</sup> Century seal. In Elizabethan times, the College of Arms confirmed that it could be used by the residents of Poole.

The following Arms element of the coat of arms relates back to circa 1563. This image is recognisable throughout the borough but has only been reproduced on a flag since 2011.

