



NOREMARSH
JUNIOR SCHOOL

Praise Policy

2022 - 2025

This policy is reviewed regularly and shared with new teaching staff as part of the induction process.

This policy should be read alongside the Behaviour Policy and the Trust Behaviours for learning policy.



If you constantly reward the minimum standards then children will strive for minimum standards. If you reward children for going over and above then there is no limit to their excellent behaviour."

Paul Dix, When The Adults Change.

At Noremarsch we are **Ambitious** for all our children both academically and socially. By consciously planning for how and why we praise all our children we are setting consistently high expectations for all and supporting them to achieve that. All children know what we expect as we praise and reinforce key messages throughout the school day.

Our approach to praise across the school exemplifies our values in the following ways:

Ambition - Praising the behaviours we want all children achieve and celebrating those who go above and beyond sets our expectations visibly and clearly for all children. We want all our children to leave Noremarsch having achieved their best academically and equip with behaviours for learning that will help them to achieve excellence as they move on to the next steps of their academic journey.

Belonging - all staff work hard at Noremarsch to create a climate across the school where children are praised for both behaviour and academic success. Noremarsch is a safe place to have a go, take risks and make mistakes, we support children to achieve the high expectations we have set. Our use of praise reinforces our expectations, helping all children to achieve and succeed in meeting them.

Compassion - This policy sets out clearly the ways in which we praise and celebrate the children and the ways in which we support those who struggle to meet those expectations. The consistent approach aims to reduce workload for all staff by ensuring we are all supporting each other by responding in the same ways across the school.

At Noremarsch, our approach to behaviour is underpinned by our school values (Ambition, Belonging, Compassion). All our staff reinforce when children are getting it right through praise and rewards (as set out below):

Praise

At Noremarsch we recognise that different people feel appreciated in different ways; some children appreciate seeing their work on display, applause for reading aloud or having work shared in front of their class. Others prefer a quiet word, an extra responsibility or a subtly given, discrete reinforcement.

Our team work hard to get to know the ways which work best for all our children and to ensure equity of provision not a one size fits all approach so that our children feel seen, understood and appreciated through our use of praise and in turn strengthen their sense of belonging to our school.

Adults across the school will praise children who are demonstrating positive behaviours or achieving success through:

- Thanking them for the specific thing they have done, e.g. thank you for walking quietly down the corridor
- Mentioning them by name during countdowns
- Praising the behaviour, we are looking for – Excellent James, I can see you are ready because you are facing this way.
- Pausing a task to highlight successes
- Thumbs up
- Getting on to their level to discretely praise their successes.
- Using visualisers to share work.
- Displays in classrooms and corridors.

We know that praising those who are meeting and exceeding our high expectations acts as a reminder to those who might be struggling or failing meet expectations in that moment. If this is the case specific reminders are given and the behaviour steps followed.

Rewards

Sticker and Stamps

Stickers and stamps are awarded to children when an adult is particularly impressed with a piece of work that they have produced, the amount of effort being given to a particular task or excellent contributions to lessons or the school community. These are placed directly in the children's books and/or on children's jumpers.

SLT celebration

Some pieces of work, attitudes to learning or behaviours which go above and beyond are shared with members of SLT (Hilary MacMeekin – headteacher, Jo Ballinger – AHT, Michelle Card – AHT, Karen Beard – AHT). These are celebrated verbally and praised for having gone above and beyond expectations and gold Stickers are shared in the work and/or on jumpers. The achievement is then shared in celebration assembly on Fridays.

Class Dojo

Dojos are given by all adults across school for behaviour and achievements. They are used by adults at lunchtimes and breaktimes to reward children not in the class they work with. These are then collected in class to work towards a collective reward when the class collect 500 dojos (roughly once per term)

Hot Choc with the Head

When an adult sees a child who has gone exceptionally above and beyond for a piece of work, an attitude to learning or an act of compassion they can nominate them for Hot chocolate with the Head. They do this by emailing the headteacher by Thursday evening with their nomination and how they have earned Hot Chocolate. This is then shared in Celebration assembly on Friday mornings, when the child is invited to Hot Chocolate with the Head. We will let parents know via text message that their child has been chosen for Hot Chocolate with the Head.

Learner of the Day

All classes celebrate a learner of the day each day. This is a child chosen by a member or the teaching team or another member of the class who has been spotted demonstrating excellent learning behaviours in class. They are rewarded with praise from their peers and a biscuit/sweet – this varies slightly from class to class (Custard Cream Learner/Golden learner).

Phone calls/texts home

At Noremarsch we want to involve parents in praise and celebration of their child's achievements and behaviours. When a child has gone above and beyond with effort, behaviour or a task adults can phone or text to share this achievement with parents at home.

Postcards home

Similarly to phone calls and texts, all adults will send post cards home when a child is spotted doing something exceptional. These will have a short explanation of the child's achievement and are then posted home for families to share and celebrate together.

Scratch and Sniff Reading Stickers

Each week all class teams identify a child who has worked hard and/or made excellent progress in reading. These achievements are shared in the weekly celebration assembly and the child is given a scratch and sniff sticker from Mrs Sexton's collection.

Star of the week

Star of the week is chosen at random each week in class. The children and adults then look for things that need recognition and celebration about that child and record them for the class and the star of the week to see. Adults model giving full reasons with explanations. These are then shared in Friday's celebration assembly and sent home for the child to share with their family and keep.