

Caldicot School
Ysgol Cil-y-Coed



Caldicot School

The Praise and Commendations Policy

February 2018

Ratified by Governing Body on 6th February 2018

CALDICOT SCHOOL – PRAISE AND COMMENDATIONS POLICY

1. Opening Statement

Caldicot School believes that the efforts and achievements of all pupils, both in school and beyond, should be recognised and celebrated. We promote a positive environment whereby Caldicot pupils feel comfortable both striving for success and acknowledging the success of others.

Without exception, success should be celebrated at all levels and teachers should use verbal praise whenever it is appropriate.

The culture of success will be promoted through the use of positivity posters throughout the school to motivate pupils daily to aim for success. Year Tutors and Form Tutors will promote the policy and encourage pupils during registration and assemblies. In addition, criteria for receiving achievement points and prizes available will be displayed in corridors, classrooms and Year Tutor offices.

2. Aims

We aim to:

- enhance pupil motivation through positive reinforcement;
- recognise, encourage and value pupils' contributions to the life of the school and community;
- recognise pupils' achievements and efforts within separate subject areas/areas of learning;
- provide a means to publicly celebrate pupils' achievements;
- encourage pupils to challenge and extend their potential through involvement in both internally and externally organised activities;
- offer a system whereby pupils value their own and others' achievements;
- encourage pupils to see the value of excellent rates of attendance;
- help to build the pupils' sense of self-esteem;
- reinforce a positive school ethos where all members of the community are valued and respected.

3. Outcomes

The school is committed to achieving the following outcomes from this policy:

- The celebration and recognition of pupils who adhere to the school's behaviour policy and core values.
- The delivery of a system to implement the Praise and Commendations Policy.

4. Procedure

4.1 Subject Commendations

The school has established criteria by which commendations are awarded to pupils throughout Key Stages 3 and 4. The criteria are published via posters, telescreens and the school website. In areas of learning, pupils are made aware of how they can gain these commendations through their achievements and efforts in school. The general criteria for subject teachers are as follows:

- An excellent piece of work or excellent effort applied to a piece of work.
- Marked improvement in content/quality or presentation of work.
- Marked improvement in oral contributions and involvement.

Teachers will award single commendations. When commendations are awarded by subject teachers the teacher will record the achievement via SIMS. The pupil will be responsible for filling in the table within their pupil planner. Year Tutors will receive notification of commendations via the SIMS homepage. The Year Tutor will celebrate pupil success formally in assembly.

In addition, subject teachers can celebrate success with celebration of success boards within the classroom/department area, by sending praise postcards home in the post, through the acknowledgement of success within the school newsletter.

4.2 Pastoral Praise Cards

Pastoral Praise Cards will be awarded for:

- meeting or exceeding academic targets set in subjects;
- producing an exceptional piece of work;
- wearing correct uniform for a full term;
- Adhering to the school's values in lessons and throughout the school day
 - ✓ Honesty
 - ✓ Tolerance
 - ✓ Respect
 - ✓ Self-discipline
 - ✓ Self-esteem
 - ✓ Responsibility

Every term, the 25 pupils from year groups 7-11 with the most achievement points will have their names displayed on the school leader boards for their year group. The top 25 pupils overall will have their names displayed on the whole school leader board.

In addition, Year Tutors will be responsible for notifying the author of the school newsletter of the five pupils per year group who have achieved the highest number of commendations per term.

4.3 Service to the School.

Examples of service to the school include:

- performing in a school concert or play;
- volunteering for numeracy peer support programme;
- Volunteering for literacy peer support programme;

- taking part in an assembly of presentation;
- representing the school at a function, in a sporting event or elsewhere;
- acting as a host/hostess to visitors.

Once a term, each year group will have a Commendations' Assembly with their Year Tutor and Pathway Leader. At Christmas time in each academic year, an awards ceremony will be held to celebrate success where pupils' achievements both inside and outside of school will be celebrated. The Awards' Assemblies will formally recognise the pupils for their efforts and achievements throughout the year.

4.4 Transition, Pre- 16 Pathway and Post 16

Headteacher, Pathway Leader and Year Tutor awards will be given to the five pupils who have gained the highest number of commendations per year group.

Pathway Leaders and Year Tutors for years 7-11 will acknowledge success during the Celebration of Success Evening where pupils will receive an annual prize in the presence of their parents/carer.

Success in the Post 16 Pathway will be celebrated in the annual Award Ceremony held in December.

4.5 Commendations for Attendance and Punctuality.

Attendance at Caldicot School is given a high profile as it is an important factor that leads to success.

Parents/carers of all pupils who exceed the school attendance target will receive a letter of congratulations every term. Excellent attendance will also be celebrated within Year Tutor assemblies every term. In addition, the form group with the highest attendance per year group will be commended.

100% attendance for the whole academic year will be commended with the presentation of a certificate in the Celebration of Success Evening.

One pupil from every year group will be chosen to receive the most improved attendance award and will receive a trophy at the Celebration of Success Evening.

4.6 Commendations for Zero Behaviour Points

Each term a 'Zero Event' will be held. Pupils with zero behaviour points on SIMS will be entered into a prize raffle to the value of £10 in the final Year Tutor assembly at the end of term.

4.7 Commendation Conversion Chart

Highest Achievers	Commendation
Top 5 Gold Award	Gift voucher worth £10:00 for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eateries e.g. Nandos or TGI Friday's • Leisure activities e.g. cinema or bowling • Sporting activities e.g. trampolining or football
6-15 Silver Award	Free meal deal and queue jump or sporting day/afternoon within school
16-25 Bronze Award	Queue jump

5. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

- 5.1 The Year Tutors monitor the awarding of commendations through the scrutiny of the SIMS homepage on a termly basis.
- 5.2 Mrs B Fortt and Mrs E Williams will regularly review the policy and make any further recommendations to the Governing Body.

The Governing Body, in consultation with the Headteacher, School Council, staff and parents, will regularly review this policy and associated procedures in order to ensure its continuing effectiveness.