

Update: New UK Norming

What is Norming?

- Norming is a process of comparing individual or group scores/results with other students of a similar age or Year group across an area or country. We provide two sets of normed scores – Percentile Rank (PR) and Norm Referenced Standardised Score (NRSS). Teachers can see the results from both norming processes and how well their students or class compares with others across the country.

Our new norming dimensions are calculated by NFER (the National Foundation for Educational Research) – the country's leading provider of education research and insights. Their long history, vast experience and pioneering methods have established their reputation as an authoritative, trusted and respected voice in education.

What can we expect to see in September 2019?

- At the start of the new school year for 2019 – 2020 you will see changes to the way norming for Star Reading will be reported within the UK. These changes represent opportunities to further refine the norming process for NRSS and PR.

Why update now?

- It is important that as populations change, and the effects of new strategies alter learning, that norming is an ever-ongoing process. The last norming we conducted was in 2009 – 2010. At that time, we were able to select results from 816,000 assessments from across the UK. In this new norming process, we have been able to select from 6,535,790 assessments.

What are country specific norms?

- In the UK, we are able to provide country specific norms, so you will be able to see PR and NRSS for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Republic of Ireland and other international schools will receive UK norms.

How will the new norms work?

- Increases in the number of schools using Star Reading gives us an opportunity to further refine the ways in which we report results based on the age of children. We will be reporting both the Year group of a child and their age in years and months as two indices for norming. Up until now we have normed based on the age of a child in years and months, which is standard practice. However, depending on the time of year a Star assessment is taken, older students in one specific Year group were compared with younger students in the Year group above. By refining the age group to only include students of similar ages in the same Year group we can provide a more accurate and reliable norming process.

Our research has also shown that students' scores vary depending on the time of year a Star assessment is taken. To account for this factor, the school year has been broken into three 'time sections', roughly equivalent to three terms. The date the assessment is taken is recorded and used as a basis for norming.

What will not change?

- Though the PR and NRSS will change, other scores which are not 'normed' will not change. So Reading Age, ZPD and SGP will remain as they are at the moment.