

## Key stage 1 – year 1

During year 1 teachers should build on work from the Early Years Foundation Stage, making sure that pupils can sound and blend unfamiliar printed words quickly and accurately using the phonic knowledge and skills that they have already learnt. Teachers should also ensure that pupils continue to learn new grapheme-phoneme correspondences (GPCs) and revise and consolidate those learnt earlier. The understanding that the letter(s) on the page represent the sounds in spoken words should underpin pupils' reading and spelling of all words. This includes common words containing unusual GPCs. The term 'common exception words' is used throughout the programmes of study for such words.

Alongside this knowledge of GPCs, pupils need to develop the skill of blending the sounds into words for reading and establish the habit of applying this skill whenever they encounter new words. This will be supported by practice in reading books consistent with their developing phonic knowledge and skill and their knowledge of common exception words. At the same time they will need to hear, share and discuss a wide range of high-quality books to develop a love of reading and broaden their vocabulary.

Pupils should be helped to read words without overt sounding and blending after a few encounters. Those who are slow to develop this skill should have extra practice.

Pupils' writing during year 1 will generally develop at a slower pace than their reading. This is because they need to encode the sounds they hear in words (spelling skills), develop the physical skill needed for handwriting, and learn how to organise their ideas in writing.

Pupils entering year 1 who have not yet met the early learning goals for literacy should continue to follow their school's curriculum for the Early Years Foundation Stage to develop their word reading, spelling and language skills. However, these pupils should follow the year 1 programme of study in terms of the books they listen to and discuss, so that they develop their vocabulary and understanding of grammar, as well as their knowledge more generally across the curriculum. If they are still struggling to decode and spell, they need to be taught to do this urgently through a rigorous and systematic phonics programme so that they catch up rapidly.

Teachers should ensure that their teaching develops pupils' oral vocabulary as well as their ability to understand and use a variety of grammatical structures, giving particular support to pupils whose oral language skills are insufficiently developed.

# Year 1 programme of study

## Reading – word reading

### Statutory requirements

Pupils should be taught to:

apply phonic knowledge and skills as the route to decode words

respond speedily with the correct sound to graphemes (letters or groups of letters) for all 40+ phonemes, including, where applicable, alternative sounds for graphemes

read accurately by blending sounds in unfamiliar words containing GPCs that have been taught

read common exception words, noting unusual correspondences between spelling and sound and where these occur in the word

read words containing taught GPCs and –s, –es, –ing, –ed, –er and –est endings

read other words of more than one syllable that contain taught GPCs

read words with contractions [for example, I'm, I'll, we'll], and understand that the apostrophe represents the omitted letter(s)

read aloud accurately books that are consistent with their developing phonic knowledge and that do not require them to use other strategies to work out words

re-read these books to build up their fluency and confidence in word reading.

### Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

Pupils should revise and consolidate the GPCs and the common exception words taught in Reception. As soon as they can read words comprising the year 1 GPCs accurately and speedily, they should move on to the year 2 programme of study for word reading.

The number, order and choice of exception words taught will vary according to the phonics programme being used. Ensuring that pupils are aware of the GPCs they contain, however unusual these are, supports spelling later.

Young readers encounter words that they have not seen before much more frequently than experienced readers do, and they may not know the meaning of some of these. Practice at reading such words by sounding and blending can provide opportunities not only for pupils to develop confidence in their decoding skills, but also for teachers to explain the meaning and thus develop pupils' vocabulary.

### Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

Pupils should be taught how to read words with suffixes by being helped to build on the root words that they can read already. Pupils' reading and re-reading of books that are closely matched to their developing phonic knowledge and knowledge of common exception words supports their fluency, as well as increasing their confidence in their reading skills. Fluent word reading greatly assists comprehension, especially when pupils come to read longer books.

## Reading – comprehension

### Statutory requirements

Pupils should be taught to:

develop pleasure in reading, motivation to read, vocabulary and understanding by:

- listening to and discussing a wide range of poems, stories and non-fiction at a level beyond that at which they can read independently

- being encouraged to link what they read or hear read to their own experiences

- becoming very familiar with key stories, fairy stories and traditional tales, retelling them and considering their particular characteristics

- recognising and joining in with predictable phrases

- learning to appreciate rhymes and poems, and to recite some by heart

- discussing word meanings, linking new meanings to those already known

understand both the books they can already read accurately and fluently and those they listen to by:

- drawing on what they already know or on background information and vocabulary provided by the teacher

- checking that the text makes sense to them as they read and correcting inaccurate reading

- discussing the significance of the title and events

- making inferences on the basis of what is being said and done

- predicting what might happen on the basis of what has been read so far

participate in discussion about what is read to them, taking turns and listening to what others say

explain clearly their understanding of what is read to them.

### Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

Pupils should have extensive experience of listening to, sharing and discussing a wide range of high-quality books with the teacher, other adults and each other to engender a love of reading at the same time as they are reading independently.

Pupils' vocabulary should be developed when they listen to books read aloud and when they discuss what they have heard. Such vocabulary can also feed into their writing. Knowing the meaning of more words increases pupils' chances of understanding when they read by themselves. The meaning of some new words should be introduced to pupils before they start to read on their own, so that these unknown words do not hold up their comprehension.

However, once pupils have already decoded words successfully, the meaning of those that are new to them can be discussed with them, so contributing to developing their early skills of inference. By listening frequently to stories, poems and non-fiction that they cannot yet read for themselves, pupils begin to understand how written language can be structured in order, for example, to build surprise in narratives or to present facts in non-fiction. Listening to and discussing information books and other non-fiction establishes the foundations for their learning in other subjects. Pupils should be shown some of the processes for finding out information.

Through listening, pupils also start to learn how language sounds and increase their vocabulary and awareness of grammatical structures. In due course, they will be able to draw on such grammar in their own writing.

Rules for effective discussions should be agreed with and demonstrated for pupils. They should help to develop and evaluate them, with the expectation that everyone takes part. Pupils should be helped to consider the opinions of others.

Role-play can help pupils to identify with and explore characters and to try out the language they have listened to.

## Writing – transcription

### Statutory requirements

#### Spelling (see [English Appendix 1](#))

Pupils should be taught to:

spell:

- words containing each of the 40+ phonemes already taught
- common exception words
- the days of the week

## Statutory requirements

name the letters of the alphabet:

naming the letters of the alphabet in order

using letter names to distinguish between alternative spellings of the same sound

add prefixes and suffixes:

using the spelling rule for adding –s or –es as the plural marker for nouns and the third person singular marker for verbs

using the prefix un–

using –ing, –ed, –er and –est where no change is needed in the spelling of root words [for example, helping, helped, helper, eating, quicker, quickest]

apply simple spelling rules and guidance, as listed in [English Appendix 1](#)

write from memory simple sentences dictated by the teacher that include words using the GPCs and common exception words taught so far.

## Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

Reading should be taught alongside spelling, so that pupils understand that they can read back words they have spelt.

Pupils should be shown how to segment spoken words into individual phonemes and then how to represent the phonemes by the appropriate grapheme(s). It is important to recognise that phoneme-grapheme correspondences (which underpin spelling) are more variable than grapheme-phoneme correspondences (which underpin reading). For this reason, pupils need to do much more word-specific rehearsal for spelling than for reading.

At this stage pupils will be spelling some words in a phonically plausible way, even if sometimes incorrectly. Misspellings of words that pupils have been taught to spell should be corrected; other misspelt words should be used to teach pupils about alternative ways of representing those sounds.

Writing simple dictated sentences that include words taught so far gives pupils opportunities to apply and practise their spelling.

## Statutory requirements

### Handwriting

Pupils should be taught to:

sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly

begin to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place

form capital letters

form digits 0-9

understand which letters belong to which handwriting 'families' (i.e. letters that are formed in similar ways) and to practise these.

### Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

Handwriting requires frequent and discrete, direct teaching. Pupils should be able to form letters correctly and confidently. The size of the writing implement (pencil, pen) should not be too large for a young pupil's hand. Whatever is being used should allow the pupil to hold it easily and correctly so that bad habits are avoided.

Left-handed pupils should receive specific teaching to meet their needs.

## Writing – composition

### Statutory requirements

Pupils should be taught to:

write sentences by:

saying out loud what they are going to write about

composing a sentence orally before writing it

sequencing sentences to form short narratives

re-reading what they have written to check that it makes sense

discuss what they have written with the teacher or other pupils

read aloud their writing clearly enough to be heard by their peers and the teacher.

### Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

At the beginning of year 1, not all pupils will have the spelling and handwriting skills they need to write down everything that they can compose out loud.

Pupils should understand, through demonstration, the skills and processes essential to writing: that is, thinking aloud as they collect ideas, drafting, and re-reading to check their meaning is clear.

## Writing – vocabulary, grammar and punctuation

### Statutory requirements

Pupils should be taught to:

develop their understanding of the concepts set out in [English Appendix 2](#) by:

- leaving spaces between words

- joining words and joining clauses using and

- beginning to punctuate sentences using a capital letter and a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark

- using a capital letter for names of people, places, the days of the week, and the personal pronoun 'I'

- learning the grammar for year 1 in English Appendix 2

use the grammatical terminology in English Appendix 2 in discussing their writing.

### Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

Pupils should be taught to recognise sentence boundaries in spoken sentences and to use the vocabulary listed in [English Appendix 2](#) ('Terminology for pupils') when their writing is discussed.

Pupils should begin to use some of the distinctive features of Standard English in their writing. 'Standard English' is defined in the [Glossary](#).

## Key stage 1 – year 2

By the beginning of year 2, pupils should be able to read all common graphemes. They should be able to read unfamiliar words containing these graphemes, accurately and without undue hesitation, by sounding them out in books that are matched closely to each pupil's level of word reading knowledge. They should also be able to read many common words containing GPCs taught so far [for example, shout, hand, stop, or dream], without needing to blend the sounds out loud first. Pupils' reading of common exception words [for example, you, could, many, or people], should be secure. Pupils will increase their fluency by being able to read these words easily and automatically. Finally, pupils should be able to retell some familiar stories that have been read to and discussed with them or that they have acted out during year 1.

During year 2, teachers should continue to focus on establishing pupils' accurate and speedy word reading skills. They should also make sure that pupils listen to and discuss a wide range of stories, poems, plays and information books; this should include whole books. The sooner that pupils can read well and do so frequently, the sooner they will be able to increase their vocabulary, comprehension and their knowledge across the wider curriculum.

In writing, pupils at the beginning of year 2 should be able to compose individual sentences orally and then write them down. They should be able to spell correctly many of the words covered in year 1 (see [English Appendix 1](#)). They should also be able to make phonically plausible attempts to spell words they have not yet learnt. Finally, they should be able to form individual letters correctly, so establishing good handwriting habits from the beginning.

It is important to recognise that pupils begin to meet extra challenges in terms of spelling during year 2. Increasingly, they should learn that there is not always an obvious connection between the way a word is said and the way it is spelt. Variations include different ways of spelling the same sound, the use of so-called silent letters and groups of letters in some words and, sometimes, spelling that has become separated from the way that words are now pronounced, such as the 'le' ending in table. Pupils' motor skills also need to be sufficiently advanced for them to write down ideas that they may be able to compose orally. In addition, writing is intrinsically harder than reading: pupils are likely to be able to read and understand more complex writing (in terms of its vocabulary and structure) than they are capable of producing themselves.

For pupils who do not have the phonic knowledge and skills they need for year 2, teachers should use the year 1 programmes of study for word reading and spelling so that pupils' word reading skills catch up. However, teachers should use the year 2 programme of study for comprehension so that these pupils hear and talk about new books, poems, other writing, and vocabulary with the rest of the class.

## Year 2 programme of study

### Reading – word reading

#### Statutory requirements

Pupils should be taught to:

continue to apply phonic knowledge and skills as the route to decode words until automatic decoding has become embedded and reading is fluent

read accurately by blending the sounds in words that contain the graphemes taught so far, especially recognising alternative sounds for graphemes

read accurately words of two or more syllables that contain the same graphemes as above

read words containing common suffixes

read further common exception words, noting unusual correspondences between spelling and sound and where these occur in the word

read most words quickly and accurately, without overt sounding and blending, when they have been frequently encountered

read aloud books closely matched to their improving phonic knowledge, sounding out unfamiliar words accurately, automatically and without undue hesitation

re-read these books to build up their fluency and confidence in word reading.

#### Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

Pupils should revise and consolidate the GPCs and the common exception words taught in year 1. The exception words taught will vary slightly, depending on the phonics programme being used. As soon as pupils can read words comprising the year 2 GPCs accurately and speedily, they should move on to the years 3 and 4 programme of study for word reading.

When pupils are taught how to read longer words, they should be shown syllable boundaries and how to read each syllable separately before they combine them to read the word.

Pupils should be taught how to read suffixes by building on the root words that they have already learnt. The whole suffix should be taught as well as the letters that make it up.

Pupils who are still at the early stages of learning to read should have ample practice in reading books that are closely matched to their developing phonic knowledge and knowledge of common exception words. As soon as the decoding of most regular words and common exception words is embedded fully, the range of books that pupils can read independently will expand rapidly. Pupils should have opportunities to exercise choice in selecting books and be taught how to do so.

### Statutory requirements

Pupils should be taught to:

develop pleasure in reading, motivation to read, vocabulary and understanding by:

- listening to, discussing and expressing views about a wide range of contemporary and classic poetry, stories and non-fiction at a level beyond that at which they can read independently

- discussing the sequence of events in books and how items of information are related

- becoming increasingly familiar with and retelling a wider range of stories, fairy stories and traditional tales

- being introduced to non-fiction books that are structured in different ways

- recognising simple recurring literary language in stories and poetry

- discussing and clarifying the meanings of words, linking new meanings to known vocabulary

- discussing their favourite words and phrases

- continuing to build up a repertoire of poems learnt by heart, appreciating these and reciting some, with appropriate intonation to make the meaning clear

understand both the books that they can already read accurately and fluently and those that they listen to by:

- drawing on what they already know or on background information and vocabulary provided by the teacher

- checking that the text makes sense to them as they read and correcting inaccurate reading

- making inferences on the basis of what is being said and done

- answering and asking questions

- predicting what might happen on the basis of what has been read so far

participate in discussion about books, poems and other works that are read to them and those that they can read for themselves, taking turns and listening to what others say

explain and discuss their understanding of books, poems and other material, both those that they listen to and those that they read for themselves.

### Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

Pupils should be encouraged to read all the words in a sentence and to do this accurately, so that their understanding of what they read is not hindered by imprecise decoding (for example, by reading 'place' instead of 'palace').

### Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

Pupils should monitor what they read, checking that the word they have decoded fits in with what else they have read and makes sense in the context of what they already know about the topic.

The meaning of new words should be explained to pupils within the context of what they are reading, and they should be encouraged to use morphology (such as prefixes) to work out unknown words.

Pupils should learn about cause and effect in both narrative and non-fiction (for example, what has prompted a character's behaviour in a story; why certain dates are commemorated annually). 'Thinking aloud' when reading to pupils may help them to understand what skilled readers do.

Deliberate steps should be taken to increase pupils' vocabulary and their awareness of grammar so that they continue to understand the differences between spoken and written language.

Discussion should be demonstrated to pupils. They should be guided to participate in it and they should be helped to consider the opinions of others. They should receive feedback on their discussions.

Role-play and other drama techniques can help pupils to identify with and explore characters. In these ways, they extend their understanding of what they read and have opportunities to try out the language they have listened to.

## Writing – transcription

### Statutory requirements

#### Spelling (see [English Appendix 1](#))

Pupils should be taught to:

spell by:

- segmenting spoken words into phonemes and representing these by graphemes, spelling many correctly

- learning new ways of spelling phonemes for which one or more spellings are already known, and learn some words with each spelling, including a few common homophones

- learning to spell common exception words

- learning to spell more words with contracted forms

- learning the possessive apostrophe (singular) [for example, the girl's book]

- distinguishing between homophones and near-homophones

add suffixes to spell longer words, including –ment, –ness, –ful, –less, –ly

### **Statutory requirements**

apply spelling rules and guidance, as listed in [English Appendix 1](#)

write from memory simple sentences dictated by the teacher that include words using the GPCs, common exception words and punctuation taught so far.

### **Notes and guidance (non-statutory)**

In year 2, pupils move towards more word-specific knowledge of spelling, including homophones. The process of spelling should be emphasised: that is, that spelling involves segmenting spoken words into phonemes and then representing all the phonemes by graphemes in the right order. Pupils should do this both for single-syllable and multi-syllabic words.

At this stage children's spelling should be phonically plausible, even if not always correct. Misspellings of words that pupils have been taught to spell should be corrected; other misspelt words can be used as an opportunity to teach pupils about alternative ways of representing those sounds.

Pupils should be encouraged to apply their knowledge of suffixes from their word reading to their spelling. They should also draw from and apply their growing knowledge of word and spelling structure, as well as their knowledge of root words.

### **Statutory requirements**

#### **Handwriting**

Pupils should be taught to:

form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another

start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined

write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters

use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.

### **Notes and guidance (non-statutory)**

Pupils should revise and practise correct letter formation frequently. They should be taught to write with a joined style as soon as they can form letters securely with the correct orientation.

### Statutory requirements

Pupils should be taught to:

develop positive attitudes towards and stamina for writing by:

- writing narratives about personal experiences and those of others (real and fictional)
- writing about real events
- writing poetry
- writing for different purposes

consider what they are going to write before beginning by:

- planning or saying out loud what they are going to write about
- writing down ideas and/or key words, including new vocabulary
- encapsulating what they want to say, sentence by sentence

make simple additions, revisions and corrections to their own writing by:

- evaluating their writing with the teacher and other pupils
- re-reading to check that their writing makes sense and that verbs to indicate time are used correctly and consistently, including verbs in the continuous form
- proof-reading to check for errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation [for example, ends of sentences punctuated correctly]

read aloud what they have written with appropriate intonation to make the meaning clear.

### Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

Reading and listening to whole books, not simply extracts, helps pupils to increase their vocabulary and grammatical knowledge, including their knowledge of the vocabulary and grammar of Standard English. These activities also help them to understand how different types of writing, including narratives, are structured. All these can be drawn on for their writing.

Pupils should understand, through being shown these, the skills and processes essential to writing: that is, thinking aloud as they collect ideas, drafting, and re-reading to check their meaning is clear.

Drama and role-play can contribute to the quality of pupils' writing by providing opportunities for pupils to develop and order their ideas through playing roles and improvising scenes in various settings.

Pupils might draw on and use new vocabulary from their reading, their discussions about it (one-to-one and as a whole class) and from their wider experiences.

### Statutory requirements

Pupils should be taught to:

develop their understanding of the concepts set out in [English Appendix 2](#) by:

learning how to use both familiar and new punctuation correctly (see English Appendix 2), including full stops, capital letters, exclamation marks, question marks, commas for lists and apostrophes for contracted forms and the possessive (singular)

learn how to use:

sentences with different forms: statement, question, exclamation, command

expanded noun phrases to describe and specify [for example, the blue butterfly]

the present and past tenses correctly and consistently including the progressive form

subordination (using when, if, that, or because) and co-ordination (using or, and, or but)

the grammar for year 2 in English Appendix 2

some features of written Standard English

use and understand the grammatical terminology in English Appendix 2 in discussing their writing.

### Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

The terms for discussing language should be embedded for pupils in the course of discussing their writing with them. Their attention should be drawn to the technical terms they need to learn.

# English Appendix 1: Spelling

Most people read words more accurately than they spell them. The younger pupils are, the truer this is.

By the end of year 1, pupils should be able to read a large number of different words containing the GPCs that they have learnt, whether or not they have seen these words before. Spelling, however, is a very different matter. Once pupils have learnt more than one way of spelling particular sounds, choosing the right letter or letters depends on their either having made a conscious effort to learn the words or having absorbed them less consciously through their reading. Younger pupils have not had enough time to learn or absorb the accurate spelling of all the words that they may want to write.

This appendix provides examples of words embodying each pattern which is taught. Many of the words listed as 'example words' for years 1 and 2, including almost all those listed as 'exception words', are used frequently in pupils' writing, and therefore it is worth pupils learning the correct spelling. The 'exception words' contain GPCs which have not yet been taught as widely applicable, but this may be because they are applicable in very few age-appropriate words rather than because they are rare in English words in general.

The word-lists for years 3 and 4 and years 5 and 6 are statutory. The lists are a mixture of words pupils frequently use in their writing and those which they often misspell. Some of the listed words may be thought of as quite challenging, but the 100 words in each list can easily be taught within the four years of key stage 2 alongside other words that teachers consider appropriate.

The rules and guidance are intended to support the teaching of spelling. Phonic knowledge should continue to underpin spelling after key stage 1; teachers should still draw pupils' attention to GPCs that do and do not fit in with what has been taught so far. Increasingly, however, pupils also need to understand the role of morphology and etymology. Although particular GPCs in root words simply have to be learnt, teachers can help pupils to understand relationships between meaning and spelling where these are relevant. For example, understanding the relationship between *medical* and *medicine* may help pupils to spell the /s/ sound in *medicine* with the letter 'c'. Pupils can also be helped to spell words with prefixes and suffixes correctly if they understand some general principles for adding them. Teachers should be familiar with what pupils have been taught about spelling in earlier years, such as which rules pupils have been taught for adding prefixes and suffixes.

**In this spelling appendix, the left-hand column is statutory; the middle and right-hand columns are non-statutory guidance.**

The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) is used to represent sounds (phonemes). A table showing the IPA is provided in this document.

# Spelling – work for year 1

## Revision of reception work

### Statutory requirements

The boundary between revision of work covered in Reception and the introduction of new work may vary according to the programme used, but basic revision should include:

- all letters of the alphabet and the sounds which they most commonly represent
- consonant digraphs which have been taught and the sounds which they represent
- vowel digraphs which have been taught and the sounds which they represent
- the process of segmenting spoken words into sounds before choosing graphemes to represent the sounds
- words with adjacent consonants
- guidance and rules which have been taught

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
The sounds /f/, /l/, /s/, /z/ and /k/ spelt ff, ll, ss, zz and ck	The /f/, /l/, /s/, /z/ and /k/ sounds are usually spelt as <b>ff</b> , <b>ll</b> , <b>ss</b> , <b>zz</b> and <b>ck</b> if they come straight after a single vowel letter in short words. <b>Exceptions:</b> if, pal, us, bus, yes.	off, well, miss, buzz, back
The /ŋ/ sound spelt n before k		bank, think, honk, sunk
Division of words into syllables	Each syllable is like a 'beat' in the spoken word. Words of more than one syllable often have an unstressed syllable in which the vowel sound is unclear.	pocket, rabbit, carrot, thunder, sunset

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
-tch	The /tʃ/ sound is usually spelt as <b>tch</b> if it comes straight after a single vowel letter. <b>Exceptions:</b> rich, which, much, such.	catch, fetch, kitchen, notch, hutch
The /v/ sound at the end of words	English words hardly ever end with the letter <b>v</b> , so if a word ends with a /v/ sound, the letter <b>e</b> usually needs to be added after the 'v'.	have, live, give
Adding s and es to words (plural of nouns and the third person singular of verbs)	If the ending sounds like /s/ or /z/, it is spelt as <b>-s</b> . If the ending sounds like /ɪz/ and forms an extra syllable or 'beat' in the word, it is spelt as <b>-es</b> .	cats, dogs, spends, rocks, thanks, catches
Adding the endings -ing, -ed and -er to verbs where no change is needed to the root word	<p><b>-ing</b> and <b>-er</b> always add an extra syllable to the word and <b>-ed</b> sometimes does.</p> <p>The past tense of some verbs may sound as if it ends in /ɪd/ (extra syllable), /d/ or /t/ (no extra syllable), but all these endings are spelt <b>-ed</b>.</p> <p>If the verb ends in two consonant letters (the same or different), the ending is simply added on.</p>	hunting, hunted, hunter, buzzing, buzzed, buzzer, jumping, jumped, jumper
Adding -er and -est to adjectives where no change is needed to the root word	As with verbs (see above), if the adjective ends in two consonant letters (the same or different), the ending is simply added on.	grander, grandest, fresher, freshest, quicker, quickest

## Vowel digraphs and trigraphs

Some may already be known, depending on the programmes used in Reception, but some will be new.

Vowel digraphs and trigraphs	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
ai, oi	The digraphs ai and oi are virtually never used at the end of English words.	rain, wait, train, paid, afraid oil, join, coin, point, soil
ay, oy	<b>ay</b> and <b>oy</b> are used for those sounds at the end of words and at the end of syllables.	day, play, say, way, stay boy, toy, enjoy, annoy
a–e		made, came, same, take, safe
e–e		these, theme, complete
i–e		five, ride, like, time, side
o–e		home, those, woke, hope, hole
u–e	Both the /u:/ and /ju:/ ('oo' and 'yoo') sounds can be spelt as <b>u–e</b> .	June, rule, rude, use, tube, tune
ar		car, start, park, arm, garden
ee		see, tree, green, meet, week
ea (/i:/)		sea, dream, meat, each, read (present tense)
ea (/ɛ/)		head, bread, meant, instead, read (past tense)
er (/ɜ:/)		(stressed sound): her, term, verb, person
er (/ə/)		(unstressed <i>schwa</i> sound): better, under, summer, winter, sister
ir		girl, bird, shirt, first, third
ur		turn, hurt, church, burst, Thursday

Vowel digraphs and trigraphs	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
oo (/u:/)	Very few words end with the letters <b>oo</b> , although the few that do are often words that primary children in year 1 will encounter, for example, <i>zoo</i>	food, pool, moon, zoo, soon
oo (/ʊ/)		book, took, foot, wood, good
oa	The digraph <b>oa</b> is very rare at the end of an English word.	boat, coat, road, coach, goal
oe		toe, goes
ou	The only common English word ending in <b>ou</b> is <i>you</i> .	out, about, mouth, around, sound
ow (/aʊ/) ow (/əʊ/) ue ew	Both the /u:/ and /ju:/ ('oo' and 'yoo') sounds can be spelt as <b>u-e</b> , <b>ue</b> and <b>ew</b> . If words end in the /oo/ sound, <b>ue</b> and <b>ew</b> are more common spellings than <b>oo</b> .	now, how, brown, down, town own, blow, snow, grow, show blue, clue, true, rescue, Tuesday new, few, grew, flew, drew, threw
ie (/aɪ/)		lie, tie, pie, cried, tried, dried
ie (/i:/)		chief, field, thief
igh		high, night, light, bright, right
or		for, short, born, horse, morning
ore		more, score, before, wore, shore
aw		saw, draw, yawn, crawl
au		author, August, dinosaur, astronaut
air		air, fair, pair, hair, chair
ear		dear, hear, beard, near, year
ear (/ɛə/)		bear, pear, wear
are (/ɛə/)		bare, dare, care, share, scared

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
Words ending –y (/i:/ or /ɪ/)		very, happy, funny, party, family
New consonant spellings ph and wh	The /f/ sound is not usually spelt as <b>ph</b> in short everyday words (e.g. <i>fat, fill, fun</i> ).	dolphin, alphabet, phonics, elephant when, where, which, wheel, while
Using k for the /k/ sound	The /k/ sound is spelt as <b>k</b> rather than as <b>c</b> before <b>e, i</b> and <b>y</b> .	Kent, sketch, kit, skin, frisky
Adding the prefix –un	The prefix <b>un–</b> is added to the beginning of a word without any change to the spelling of the root word.	unhappy, undo, unload, unfair, unlock
Compound words	Compound words are two words joined together. Each part of the longer word is spelt as it would be if it were on its own.	football, playground, farmyard, bedroom, blackberry
Common exception words	Pupils' attention should be drawn to the grapheme-phoneme correspondences that do and do not fit in with what has been taught so far.	the, a, do, to, today, of, said, says, are, were, was, is, his, has, I, you, your, they, be, he, me, she, we, no, go, so, by, my, here, there, where, love, come, some, one, once, ask, friend, school, put, push, pull, full, house, our – and/or others, according to the programme used

## Spelling – work for year 2

### Revision of work from year 1

As words with new GPCs are introduced, many previously-taught GPCs can be revised at the same time as these words will usually contain them.

### New work for year 2

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
The /dʒ/ sound spelt as ge and dge at the end of words, and sometimes spelt as g elsewhere in words before e, i and y	<p>The letter j is never used for the /dʒ/ sound at the end of English words.</p> <p>At the end of a word, the /dʒ/ sound is spelt <b>-dge</b> straight after the /æ/, /ɛ/, /ɪ/, /ɒ/, /ʌ/ and /ʊ/ sounds (sometimes called 'short' vowels).</p> <p>After all other sounds, whether vowels or consonants, the /dʒ/ sound is spelt as <b>-ge</b> at the end of a word.</p> <p>In other positions in words, the /dʒ/ sound is often (but not always) spelt as g before e, i, and y. The /dʒ/ sound is always spelt as j before a, o and u.</p>	<p>badge, edge, bridge, dodge, fudge</p> <p>age, huge, change, charge, bulge, village</p> <p>gem, giant, magic, giraffe, energy jacket, jar, jog, join, adjust</p>
The /s/ sound spelt c before e, i and y		race, ice, cell, city, fancy
The /n/ sound spelt kn and (less often) gn at the beginning of words	The 'k' and 'g' at the beginning of these words was sounded hundreds of years ago.	knock, know, knee, gnat, gnaw
The /r/ sound spelt wr at the beginning of words	This spelling probably also reflects an old pronunciation.	write, written, wrote, wrong, wrap
The /l/ or /əl/ sound spelt -le at the end of words	The <b>-le</b> spelling is the most common spelling for this sound at the end of words.	table, apple, bottle, little, middle

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
The /l/ or /əl/ sound spelt –el at the end of words	The <b>–el</b> spelling is much less common than <b>–le</b> . The <b>–el</b> spelling is used after <b>m, n, r, s, v, w</b> and more often than not after <b>s</b> .	camel, tunnel, squirrel, travel, towel, tinsel
The /l/ or /əl/ sound spelt –al at the end of words	Not many nouns end in <b>–al</b> , but many adjectives do.	metal, pedal, capital, hospital, animal
Words ending –il	There are not many of these words.	pencil, fossil, nostril
The /aɪ/ sound spelt –y at the end of words	This is by far the most common spelling for this sound at the end of words.	cry, fly, dry, try, reply, July
Adding –es to nouns and verbs ending in –y	The <b>y</b> is changed to <b>i</b> before <b>–es</b> is added.	flies, tries, replies, copies, babies, carries
Adding –ed, –ing, –er and –est to a root word ending in –y with a consonant before it	The <b>y</b> is changed to <b>i</b> before <b>–ed, –er</b> and <b>–est</b> are added, but not before <b>–ing</b> as this would result in <b>ii</b> . The only ordinary words with <b>ii</b> are <i>skiing</i> and <i>taxiing</i> .	copied, copier, happier, happiest, cried, replied ... <b>but</b> copying, crying, replying
Adding the endings –ing, –ed, –er, –est and –y to words ending in –e with a consonant before it	The <b>–e</b> at the end of the root word is dropped before <b>–ing, –ed, –er, –est, –y</b> or any other suffix beginning with a vowel letter is added. <b>Exception:</b> <i>being</i> .	hiking, hiked, hiker, nicer, nicest, shiny
Adding –ing, –ed, –er, –est and –y to words of one syllable ending in a single consonant letter after a single vowel letter	The last consonant letter of the root word is doubled to keep the /æ/, /ɛ/, /ɪ/, /ɒ/ and /ʌ/ sound (i.e. to keep the vowel ‘short’). <b>Exception:</b> The letter ‘x’ is never doubled: <i>mixing, mixed, boxer, sixes</i> .	patting, patted, humming, hummed, dropping, dropped, sadder, saddest, fatter, fattest, runner, runny
The /ɔ:/ sound spelt a before I and II	The /ɔ:/ sound (‘or’) is usually spelt as <b>a</b> before <b>I</b> and <b>II</b> .	all, ball, call, walk, talk, always
The /ʌ/ sound spelt o		other, mother, brother, nothing, Monday

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
The /i:/ sound spelt –ey	The plural of these words is formed by the addition of <b>–s</b> ( <i>donkeys, monkeys, etc.</i> ).	key, donkey, monkey, chimney, valley
The /b/ sound spelt a after w and qu	<b>a</b> is the most common spelling for the /b/ ('hot') sound after <b>w</b> and <b>qu</b> .	want, watch, wander, quantity, squash
The /ɜ:/ sound spelt or after w	There are not many of these words.	word, work, worm, world, worth
The /ɔ:/ sound spelt ar after w	There are not many of these words.	war, warm, towards
The /ʒ/ sound spelt s		television, treasure, usual
The suffixes –ment, –ness, –ful, –less and –ly	If a suffix starts with a consonant letter, it is added straight on to most root words without any change to the last letter of those words. <b>Exceptions:</b> (1) <i>argument</i> (2) root words ending in –y with a consonant before it but only if the root word has more than one syllable.	enjoyment, sadness, careful, playful, hopeless, plainness (plain + ness), badly  merriment, happiness, plentiful, penniless, happily
Contractions	In contractions, the apostrophe shows where a letter or letters would be if the words were written in full (e.g. <i>can't – cannot</i> ). <i>It's</i> means <i>it is</i> (e.g. <i>It's</i> raining) or sometimes <i>it has</i> (e.g. <i>It's</i> been raining), but <i>it's</i> is never used for the possessive.	can't, didn't, hasn't, couldn't, it's, I'll
The possessive apostrophe (singular nouns)		Megan's, Ravi's, the girl's, the child's, the man's
Words ending in –tion		station, fiction, motion, national, section

Statutory requirements	Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
Homophones and near-homophones	It is important to know the difference in meaning between homophones.	there/their/they're, here/hear, quite/quiet, see/sea, bare/bear, one/won, sun/son, to/too/two, be/bee, blue/blew, night/knight
Common exception words	<p>Some words are exceptions in some accents but not in others – e.g. <i>past</i>, <i>last</i>, <i>fast</i>, <i>path</i> and <i>bath</i> are not exceptions in accents where the <b>a</b> in these words is pronounced /æ/, as in <i>cat</i>.</p> <p><i>Great</i>, <i>break</i> and <i>steak</i> are the only common words where the /eɪ/ sound is spelt <b>ea</b>.</p>	<p>door, floor, poor, because, find, kind, mind, behind, child, children*, wild, climb, most, only, both, old, cold, gold, hold, told, every, everybody, even, great, break, steak, pretty, beautiful, after, fast, last, past, father, class, grass, pass, plant, path, bath, hour, move, prove, improve, sure, sugar, eye, could, should, would, who, whole, any, many, clothes, busy, people, water, again, half, money, Mr, Mrs, parents, Christmas – and/or others according to programme used.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> 'children' is not an exception to what has been taught so far but is included because of its relationship with 'child'.</p>

## English Appendix 2: Vocabulary, grammar and punctuation

The grammar of our first language is learnt naturally and implicitly through interactions with other speakers and from reading. Explicit knowledge of grammar is, however, very important, as it gives us more conscious control and choice in our language. Building this knowledge is best achieved through a focus on grammar within the teaching of reading, writing and speaking. Once pupils are familiar with a grammatical concept [for example 'modal verb'], they should be encouraged to apply and explore this concept in the grammar of their own speech and writing and to note where it is used by others. Young pupils, in particular, use more complex language in speech than in writing, and teachers should build on this, aiming for a smooth transition to sophisticated writing.

The table below focuses on Standard English and should be read in conjunction with the programmes of study as it sets out the statutory requirements. The table shows when concepts should be introduced first, not necessarily when they should be completely understood. It is very important, therefore, that the content in earlier years be revisited in subsequent years to consolidate knowledge and build on pupils' understanding. Teachers should also go beyond the content set out here if they feel it is appropriate.

The grammatical terms that pupils should learn are labelled as 'terminology for pupils'. They should learn to recognise and use the terminology through discussion and practice. All terms in **bold** should be understood with the meanings set out in the [Glossary](#).

## Vocabulary, grammar and punctuation – Years 1 to 6

Year 1: Detail of content to be introduced (statutory requirement)	
<b>Word</b>	<p>Regular <b>plural noun suffixes</b> –s or –es [for example, <i>dog, dogs; wish, wishes</i>], including the effects of these suffixes on the meaning of the noun</p> <p><b>Suffixes</b> that can be added to <b>verbs</b> where no change is needed in the spelling of root words (e.g. <i>helping, helped, helper</i>)</p> <p>How the <b>prefix un-</b> changes the meaning of <b>verbs</b> and <b>adjectives</b> [negation, for example, <i>unkind</i>, or <i>undoing: untie the boat</i>]</p>
<b>Sentence</b>	<p>How <b>words</b> can combine to make <b>sentences</b></p> <p>Joining <b>words</b> and joining <b>clauses</b> using <i>and</i></p>
<b>Text</b>	Sequencing <b>sentences</b> to form short narratives
<b>Punctuation</b>	<p>Separation of <b>words</b> with spaces</p> <p>Introduction to capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks to demarcate <b>sentences</b></p> <p>Capital letters for names and for the personal <b>pronoun I</b></p>
<b>Terminology for pupils</b>	<p>letter, capital letter</p> <p>word, singular, plural</p> <p>sentence</p> <p>punctuation, full stop, question mark, exclamation mark</p>

Year 2: Detail of content to be introduced (statutory requirement)	
<b>Word</b>	<p>Formation of <b>nouns</b> using <b>suffixes</b> such as <i>-ness, -er</i> and by compounding [for example, <i>whiteboard, superman</i>]</p> <p>Formation of <b>adjectives</b> using <b>suffixes</b> such as <i>-ful, -less</i></p> <p>(A fuller list of <b>suffixes</b> can be found on page <a href="#">22</a> in the year 2 spelling section in English Appendix 1)</p> <p>Use of the <b>suffixes</b> <i>-er, -est</i> in <b>adjectives</b> and the use of <i>-ly</i> in Standard English to turn adjectives into <b>adverbs</b></p>

Year 2: Detail of content to be introduced (statutory requirement)	
<b>Sentence</b>	<p><b>Subordination</b> (using <i>when, if, that, because</i>) and <b>co-ordination</b> (using <i>or, and, but</i>)</p> <p>Expanded <b>noun phrases</b> for description and specification [for example, <i>the blue butterfly, plain flour, the man in the moon</i>]</p> <p><b>How the grammatical patterns in a sentence indicate its function as a statement, question, exclamation or command</b></p>
<b>Text</b>	<p>Correct choice and consistent use of <b>present tense</b> and <b>past tense</b> throughout writing</p> <p>Use of the <b>progressive</b> form of <b>verbs</b> in the <b>present</b> and <b>past tense</b> to mark actions in progress [for example, <i>she is drumming, he was shouting</i>]</p>
<b>Punctuation</b>	<p>Use of capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks to demarcate <b>sentences</b></p> <p>Commas to separate items in a list</p> <p><b>Apostrophes</b> to mark where letters are missing in spelling and to mark singular possession in nouns [for example, <i>the girl's name</i>]</p>
<b>Terminology for pupils</b>	<p>noun, noun phrase</p> <p>statement, question, exclamation, command</p> <p>compound, suffix</p> <p>adjective, adverb, verb</p> <p>tense (past, present)</p> <p>apostrophe, comma</p>

Year 3: Detail of content to be introduced (statutory requirement)	
<b>Word</b>	<p>Formation of <b>nouns</b> using a range of <b>prefixes</b> [for example <i>super-</i>, <i>anti-</i>, <i>auto-</i>]</p> <p>Use of the <b>forms</b> <i>a</i> or <i>an</i> according to whether the next <b>word</b> begins with a <b>consonant</b> or a <b>vowel</b> [for example, <u>a</u> rock, <u>an</u> open box]</p> <p><b>Word families</b> based on common <b>words</b>, showing how words are related in form and meaning [for example, <i>solve, solution, solver, dissolve, insoluble</i>]</p>

Year 3: Detail of content to be introduced (statutory requirement)	
<b>Sentence</b>	Expressing time, place and cause using <b>conjunctions</b> [for example, <i>when, before, after, while, so, because</i> ], <b>adverbs</b> [for example, <i>then, next, soon, therefore</i> ], or <b>prepositions</b> [for example, <i>before, after, during, in, because of</i> ]
<b>Text</b>	Introduction to paragraphs as a way to group related material Headings and sub-headings to aid presentation Use of the <b>present perfect</b> form of <b>verbs</b> instead of the simple past [for example, <i>He has gone out to play</i> contrasted with <i>He went out to play</i> ]
<b>Punctuation</b>	Introduction to inverted commas to <b>punctuate</b> direct speech