

National Curriculum English Year 1

Reading - word reading

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 books aloud, accurately, that are consistent with their developing phonic knowledge and that do not require them to use other strategies to work out words
- reread these books to build up their fluency and confidence in word reading

Reading - comprehension

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 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

Writing - composition

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

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' (ie letters that are formed in similar ways) and to practise these

Writing - transcription

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 1 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
- 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

Writing - vocabulary, grammar and punctuation

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 [English appendix 2](#) in discussing their writing

National Curriculum

English Year 2

Reading - word reading

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
- reread these books to build up their fluency and confidence in word reading

Reading - comprehension

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

Writing - composition

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
 - rereading to check that their writing makes sense and that verbs to indicate time are used correctly and consistently, including verbs in the continuous form
 - proofreading 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

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

Writing - transcription

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 1 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
 - 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

Writing - vocabulary, grammar and punctuation

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

National Curriculum English Year 3 & 4

Reading - word reading

Pupils should be taught to:

- apply their growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes (etymology and morphology) as listed in - see [English appendix 1](#), both to read aloud and to understand the meaning of new words they meet
- read further exception words, noting the unusual correspondences between spelling and sound, and where these occur in the word

Writing - composition

Pupils should be taught to:

- plan their writing by:
 - discussing writing similar to that which they are planning to write in order to understand and learn from its structure, vocabulary and grammar
 - discussing and recording ideas
- draft and write by:
 - composing and rehearsing sentences orally (including dialogue), progressively building a varied and rich vocabulary and an increasing range of sentence structures [English appendix 2](#)
 - organising paragraphs around a theme
 - in narratives, creating settings, characters and plot
 - in non-narrative material, using simple organisational devices [for example, headings and sub-headings]
- evaluate and edit by:
 - assessing the effectiveness of their own and others' writing and suggesting improvements
 - proposing changes to grammar and vocabulary to improve consistency, including the accurate use of pronouns in sentences
- proofread for spelling and punctuation errors
- read their own writing aloud to a group or the whole class, using appropriate intonation and controlling the tone and volume so that the meaning is clear

Handwriting

Pupils should be taught to:

- use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined
- increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting, [for example, by ensuring that the downstrokes of letters are parallel and equidistant, and that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch]

Reading - comprehension

Pupils should be taught to:

- develop positive attitudes to reading, and an understanding of what they read, by:
 - listening to and discussing a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books or textbooks
 - reading books that are structured in different ways and reading for a range of purposes
 - using dictionaries to check the meaning of words that they have read
 - increasing their familiarity with a wide range of books, including fairy stories, myths and legends, and retelling some of these orally
 - identifying themes and conventions in a wide range of books
 - preparing poems and play scripts to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding through intonation, tone, volume and action
 - discussing words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination
 - recognising some different forms of poetry [for example, free verse, narrative poetry]
- understand what they read, in books they can read independently, by:
 - checking that the text makes sense to them, discussing their understanding, and explaining the meaning of words in context
 - asking questions to improve their understanding of a text
 - drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence
 - predicting what might happen from details stated and implied
 - identifying main ideas drawn from more than 1 paragraph and summarising these
 - identifying how language, structure, and presentation contribute to meaning
- retrieve and record information from non-fiction
- participate in discussion about both books that are read to them and those they can read for themselves, taking turns and listening to what others say

Writing - vocabulary, grammar and punctuation

Pupils should be taught to:

- develop their understanding of the concepts set out in [English appendix 2](#) by:
 - extending the range of sentences with more than one clause by using a wider range of conjunctions, including: when, if, because, although
 - using the present perfect form of verbs in contrast to the past tense
 - choosing nouns or pronouns appropriately for clarity and cohesion and to avoid repetition
 - using conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to express time and cause
 - using fronted adverbials
 - learning the grammar for years 3 and 4 in [[English appendix 2](#)]/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/335190/English_Appendix_2_-_Vocabulary_grammar_and_punctuation.pdf)
- indicate grammatical and other features by:
 - using commas after fronted adverbials
 - indicating possession by using the possessive apostrophe with plural nouns
 - using and punctuating direct speech
- use and understand the grammatical terminology in [English appendix 2](#) accurately and appropriately when discussing their writing and reading

Spelling - see [English appendix 1](#)

Pupils should be taught to:

- use further prefixes and suffixes and understand how to add them - see [English appendix 1](#)
- spell further homophones
- spell words that are often misspelt - see [English appendix 1](#)
- place the possessive apostrophe accurately in words with regular plurals [for example, girls', boys'] and in words with irregular plurals [for example, children's]
- use the first 2 or 3 letters of a word to check its spelling in a dictionary
- write from memory simple sentences, dictated by the teacher, that include words and punctuation taught so far