



Over-arching Aims of the Writing Curriculum

The programmes of study for writing at key stages 1 and 2 are constructed similarly to those for reading:

- transcription (spelling and handwriting)
- composition (articulating ideas and structuring them in speech and writing).

It is essential that teaching develops pupils' competence in these two dimensions. In addition, pupils should be taught how to plan, revise and evaluate their writing. These aspects of writing have been incorporated into the programmes of study for composition.

Writing down ideas fluently depends on effective transcription: that is, on spelling quickly and accurately through knowing the relationship between sounds and letters (phonics) and understanding the morphology (word structure) and orthography (spelling structure) of words. Effective composition involves forming, articulating and communicating ideas, and then organising them coherently for a reader. This requires clarity, awareness of the audience, purpose and context, and an increasingly wide knowledge of vocabulary and grammar. Writing also depends on fluent, legible and, eventually, speedy handwriting.

Writing: Transcription Spelling**	EYFS	KS1		KS2			
	Early Learning Goals	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Phonics and Spelling Rules	Spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters	<p>To know all letters of the alphabet and the sounds which they most commonly represent.</p> <p>To recognise consonant digraphs which have been taught and the sounds which they represent.</p> <p>To recognise vowel digraphs which have been taught and the sounds which they represent.</p> <p>To recognise words with adjacent consonants.</p> <p>To accurately spell most words containing the 40+ previously taught phonemes and GPCs.</p> <p>To spell some words in a phonically plausible way, even if sometimes incorrect.</p> <p>To apply Y1 spelling rules and guidance*, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the sounds /f/, /l/, /s/, /z/ and /k/ spelt 'ff', 'll', 'ss', 'zz' and 	<p>To segment spoken words into phonemes and to represent these with graphemes, spelling many of these words correctly and making phonically-plausible attempts at others.</p> <p>To recognise new ways of spelling phonemes for which one or more spellings are already known and to learn some words with each spelling, including some common homophones (e.g. bare/bear, blue/blew, night/knight).</p> <p>To apply further Y2 spelling rules and guidance*, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. The /s/ sound spelt c before e, i and y. The /n/ sound spelt kn and (less often) gn at the beginning of words. 	<p>The /ɪ / sound spelt y elsewhere than at the end of words (e.g. gym)</p> <p>Words with the /k/ sound spelt ch (Greek in origin-e.g. chemist)</p> <p>Words with the /ʃ/ sound spelt ch (mostly French in origin) (e.g. chef)</p> <p>Words ending in -ture</p>	<p>To spell words with a short /u/ sound spelt with 'ou' (e.g. young, touch, double, trouble, country).</p> <p>Words ending with the /g/ sound spelt -gue and the /k/ sound spelt -que (French in origin)</p> <p>Words with the /s/ sound spelt sc (Latin in origin)</p> <p>Words with the /eɪ/ sound spelt ei, eigh, or ey (e.g. vein, weigh, eight, neighbour, they, obey).</p> <p>Words ending in zhuh spelt -sure</p> <p>Words ending in zhun spelt -sion</p> <p>Words ending in -ous</p>	<p>To spell words with 'silent' letters 't'</p> <p>The ee sound spelt ei</p> <p>Words that contain the letter-string ough (e.g. ought, bought, thought, nought, brought, fought, rough, tough, enough, cough, though, although, dough, through, thorough, borough, plough, bough).</p>	<p>Silent letters (silent k, g, l, n)</p> <p>To spell words with a long /e/ sound spelt 'ie' or 'ei' after 'c' (e.g. deceive, conceive, receive, perceive, ceiling) and exceptions (e.g. protein, caffeine, seize).</p> <p>Words containing the letter-string ough</p>

'ck' and exceptions;

- the /ŋ/ sound spelt 'n' before 'k' (e.g. bank, think);
- dividing words into syllables (e.g. rabbit, carrot);
- the /tʃ/ sound is usually spelt as 'ch' and exceptions;
- the /v/ sound at the end of words where the letter 'e' usually needs to be added (e.g. have, live);
- adding -s and -es to words (plural of nouns and the third person singular of verbs);
- adding the endings -ing, -ed and -er to verbs where no change is needed to the root word (e.g. buzzer, jumping);
- adding -er and -est to adjectives where no change is needed to the root word (e.g. fresher, grandest);
- spelling words with the vowel digraphs and trigraphs:

- 'ai' and 'oi' (e.g. rain, wait, train, point, soil);

- The /r/ sound spelt wr at the beginning of words.
- The /l/ or /əl/ sound spelt -le at the end of words.
- The /l/ or /əl/ sound spelt -el at the end of words.
- The /l/ or /əl/ sound spelt -al at the end of words.
- Words ending -il.
- The /aɪ/ sound spelt -y at the end of words.
- Adding -es to nouns and verbs ending in -y.
- Adding -ed, -ing, -er and -est to a root word ending in -y with a consonant before it.

- 'oy' and 'ay' (e.g. day,
toy, enjoy, annoy);

- a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e
and u-e (e.g. made,
theme, ride, woke,
tune);

- 'ar' (e.g. car, park);

- 'ee' (e.g. green, week);

- 'ea' (e.g. sea, dream);

- 'ea' (e.g. meant,
bread);

- 'er' stressed sound
(e.g. her, person);

- 'er' unstressed schwa
sound (e.g. better,
under);

- 'ir' (e.g. girl, first,
third);

- 'ur' (e.g. turn, church);

- 'oo' (e.g. food, soon);

- 'oo' (e.g. book, good);

- 'oa' (e.g. road, coach);

- 'oe' (e.g. toe, goes);

- 'ou' (e.g. loud, sound);

- 'ow' (e.g. brown,
down);

- 'ow' (e.g. own, show);

- 'ue' (e.g. true, rescue,
Tuesday);

- 'ew' (e.g. new, threw);

- 'ie' (e.g. lie, dried);

- 'ie' (e.g. chief, field);

- 'igh' (e.g. bright, right);

- 'or' (e.g. short,
morning);

- 'ore' (e.g. before,
shore);

- 'aw' (e.g. yawn, crawl);

- 'au' (e.g. author,
haunt);

- 'air' (e.g. hair, chair);

- 'ear' (e.g. beard, near,
year);

- 'ear' (e.g. bear, pear,
wear);

- 'are' (e.g. bare, dare,
scared);

- spelling words ending with -y (e.g. funny, party, family);
- spelling new consonants 'ph' and 'wh' (e.g. dolphin, alphabet, wheel, while);
- using 'k' for the /k/ sound (e.g. sketch, kit, skin).

Common Exception Words		To spell all Y1 common exception words correctly.*	To spell most Y1 and Y2 common exception words correctly.	To spell many of the Y3 and Y4 statutory spelling words correctly.	To spell all of the Y3 and Y4 statutory spelling words correctly.	To spell many of the Y5 and Y6 statutory spelling words correctly.	To spell all of the Y5 and Y6 statutory spelling words correctly.
		To spell days of the week correctly.					

Prefixes and Suffixes		To use -s and -es to form regular plurals correctly.	Adding -ing, -ed, -er, -est and -y to words of one syllable ending in a single consonant letter after a single vowel letter.	(dis-, in-) Adding the prefixes dis- and in-	(mis-) Adding the prefix mis-	Words ending in sh spelled -cious	Adding suffixes beginning with vowel letters to words ending in -fer. (e.g. referring, referred, referral, preferring, preferred, transferring, transferred, reference, referee, preference, transference).
		To use the prefix 'un-' accurately.	To add suffixes to spell most words correctly in their writing, e.g. -ment, -ness, -ful, -less, -ly.	(im-) Adding the prefix im- to root words beginning with m or p	(auto-) Adding the prefix auto-	Words ending in sh spelled -tious	To spell words ending in -able and -ably (e.g. adorable/adorably, applicable/applicably, considerable/considerably, tolerable/tolerably).
	To successfully add the suffixes -ing, -ed, -er and -est to root words where no change is needed in the spelling of the root words (e.g. helped, quickest).			(re-) Adding the prefix re-	(inter-) Adding the prefix inter-	Words ending in sh spelled -cial or -tial	To spell words ending in -ible and -ibly (e.g. possible/possibly, horrible/horribly, terrible/terribly, visible/visibly, incredible/incredibly, sensible/sensibly).
				(anti-) Adding the prefix anti-	(il-, un-, mis-, dis-) Adding il- and revising un-, in-, mis- and dis	Words ending in -ant, -ance/-ancy, -ent, -ence/-ency.	
				(super-) Adding the prefix super-	(ir-) Adding ir- to words beginning with r	Words ending in -able and -ible.	
				(sub-) Adding the prefix sub-	Adding the suffix -ly (to adjectives to form adverbs)	Words ending in -ably and -ibly.	
				Adding -ation to verbs to form nouns	Adding the suffix -ous		
				Adding the suffix -ly (to adjectives to form adverbs)	Adding the suffix -ion (to root words ending in t or te)		
				Adding the suffix -ous	Adding the suffix -ian (to root words ending in c or cs)		

Further Spelling Conventions

		<p>To spell simple compound words (e.g. dustbin, football).</p> <p>To read words that they have spelt.</p> <p>To take part in the process of segmenting spoken words into phonemes before choosing graphemes to represent those phonemes.</p>	<p>To spell more words with contracted forms, e.g. can't, didn't, hasn't, couldn't, it's, I'll.</p> <p>To learn the possessive singular apostrophe (e.g. the girl's book).</p> <p>To write, from memory, simple sentences dictated by the teacher</p> <p>that include words using the GPCs, common exception words and punctuation taught so far.</p> <p>To segment spoken words into phonemes and to then represent all of the phonemes using graphemes in the right order for both for single-syllable and multi-syllabic words.</p> <p>To self-correct misspellings of words that pupils have been taught to spell (this may require support to recognise misspellings).</p>	<p>To spell some more complex homophones and near-homophones, including here/hear, brake/break and mail/male.</p> <p>To use the first two or three letters of a word to check its spelling in a dictionary.</p>	<p>To spell words that use the possessive apostrophe with plural words, including irregular plurals (e.g. girls', boys', babies', children's, men's, mice's).</p> <p>To use their spelling knowledge to use a dictionary more efficiently.</p>	<p>To spell complex homophones and near-homophones, including who's/whose and stationary/stationery.</p> <p>To use the first three or four letters of a word to check spelling, meaning or both of these in a dictionary.</p>	<p>To spell words that contain hyphens (e.g. co-ordinate, re-enter, co-operate, co-own).</p> <p>To use a knowledge of morphology and etymology in spelling and understand that the spelling of some words needs to be learnt specifically.</p> <p>To use dictionaries and thesauruses to check the spelling and meaning of words and confidently find synonyms and antonyms.</p>
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Writing: Transcription Handwriting	EYFS	KS1		KS2			
	Early Learning Goals	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Letter Formation, Placement and Positioning	<p>Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed</p>	<p>To write lower case and capital letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place with a good level of consistency.</p> <p>To sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly.</p> <p>To form digits 0-9.</p> <p>To understand which letters belong to which handwriting 'families' (i.e. letters that are formed in similar ways) and to practise these.</p>	<p>To write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters.</p> <p>To form lower case letters of the correct size, relative to one another.</p> <p>To use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.</p>	<p>To use a neat, joined handwriting style with increasing accuracy and speed.</p>	<p>To increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting [e.g. by ensuring that the downstrokes of letters are parallel and equidistant; that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch].</p>	<p>To increase the speed of their handwriting so that problems with forming letters do not get in the way of writing down what they want to say.</p> <p>To be clear about what standard of handwriting is appropriate for a particular task, e.g. quick notes or a final handwritten version.</p>	<p>To write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding whether or not to join specific letters; - choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task.

Joining Letters			To begin to use the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters.	To continue to use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and to understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined.	To confidently use diagonal and horizontal joining strokes throughout their independent writing to increase fluency.	To confidently use diagonal and horizontal joining strokes throughout their independent writing in a legible, fluent and speedy way.	To recognise when to use an unjoined style (e.g. for labelling a diagram or data, writing an email address or for algebra) and capital letters (e.g. for filling in a form).
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composition Writing:	EYFS	KS1		KS2			
	Early Learning Goals	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Planning, Writing and Editing		<p>To say out loud what they are going to write about.</p> <p>To compose a sentence orally before writing it.</p> <p>To sequence sentences to form short narratives.</p> <p>To discuss what they have written with the teacher or other pupils.</p> <p>To reread their writing to check that it makes sense and to independently begin to make changes.</p> <p>To read their writing aloud clearly enough to be heard by their peers and the teacher.</p> <p>To use adjectives to describe.</p>	<p>To write narratives about personal experiences and those of others (real and fictional).</p> <p>To write about real events.</p> <p>To write simple poetry.</p> <p>To plan what they are going to write about, including writing down ideas and/or key words and new vocabulary</p> <p>To encapsulate what they want to say, sentence by sentence.</p> <p>To make simple additions, revisions and corrections to their own writing by evaluating their writing with the teacher and other pupils.</p> <p>To reread to check that their writing makes sense and that the correct tense is used throughout.</p> <p>To proofread to check for errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation (e.g. to check that the ends of sentences are punctuated correctly).</p>	<p>To begin to use ideas from their own reading and modelled examples to plan their writing.</p> <p>To proofread their own and others' work to check for errors (with increasing accuracy) and to make improvements.</p> <p>To begin to organise their writing into paragraphs around a theme.</p> <p>To compose and rehearse sentences orally (including dialogue).</p>	<p>To compose and rehearse sentences orally (including dialogue), progressively building a varied and rich vocabulary and an increasing range of sentence structures.</p> <p>To consistently organise their writing into paragraphs around a theme to add cohesion and to aid the reader.</p> <p>To proofread consistently and amend their own and others' writing, correcting errors in grammar, punctuation and spelling and adding nouns/pronouns for cohesion.</p>	<p>To plan their writing by identifying the audience for and purpose of the writing, selecting the appropriate form and using other similar writing as models for their own.</p> <p>To consider, when planning narratives, how authors have developed characters and settings in what pupils have read, listened to or seen performed.</p> <p>To proofread work to précis longer passages by removing unnecessary repetition or irrelevant details.</p> <p>To consistently link ideas across paragraphs.</p> <p>To proofread their work to assess the effectiveness of their own and others' writing and to make necessary corrections and improvements.</p>	<p>To note down and develop initial ideas, drawing on reading and research where necessary.</p> <p>To use further organisational and presentational devices to structure text and to guide the reader (e.g. headings, bullet points, underlining).</p> <p>To use a wide range of devices to build cohesion within and across paragraphs.</p> <p>To habitually proofread for spelling and punctuation errors.</p> <p>To propose changes to vocabulary, grammar and punctuation to enhance effects and clarify meaning.</p> <p>To recognise how words are related by meaning as synonyms and antonyms and to use this knowledge to make improvements to their writing.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Audience, Purpose and awareness of Structure</p>		<p>To use a number of simple features of different text types and to make relevant choices about subject matter and appropriate vocabulary choices.</p> <p>To start to engage readers by using adjectives to describe.</p>	<p>To write for different purposes with an awareness of an increased amount of fiction and non-fiction structures.</p> <p>To use new vocabulary from their reading, their discussions about it (one-to-one and as a whole class) and from their wider experiences.</p> <p>To read aloud what they have written with appropriate intonation to make the meaning clear.</p>	<p>To demonstrate an increasing understanding of purpose and audience by discussing writing similar to that which they are planning to write in order to understand and learn from its structure, vocabulary and grammar.</p> <p>To begin to use the structure of a wider range of text types (including the use of simple layout devices in non-fiction).</p> <p>To make deliberate ambitious word choices to add detail.</p> <p>To begin to create settings, characters and plot in narratives.</p>	<p>To write a range of narratives and non-fiction pieces using a consistent and appropriate structure (including genre-specific layout devices).</p> <p>To write a range of narratives that are well-structured and well-paced.</p> <p>To create detailed settings, characters and plot in narratives to engage the reader and to add atmosphere.</p> <p>To begin to read aloud their own writing, to a group or the whole class, using appropriate intonation and to control the tone and volume so that the meaning is clear.</p>	<p>To consistently produce sustained and accurate writing from different narrative and non-fiction genres with appropriate structure, organisation and layout devices for a range of audiences and purposes.</p> <p>To describe settings, characters and atmosphere with carefully-chosen vocabulary to enhance mood, clarify meaning and create pace.</p> <p>To regularly use dialogue to convey a character and to advance the action.</p> <p>To perform their own compositions confidently using appropriate intonation, volume and movement so that meaning is clear.</p>	<p>To write effectively for a range of purposes and audiences, selecting the appropriate form and drawing independently on what they have read as models for their own writing (including literary language, characterisation, structure, etc.).</p> <p>To distinguish between the language of speech and writing and to choose the appropriate level of formality.</p> <p>To select vocabulary and grammatical structures that reflect what the writing requires (e.g. using contracted forms in dialogues in narrative; using passive verbs to affect how information is presented; using modal verbs to suggest degrees of possibility).</p>

Writing: Vocabulary, Grammar and Punctuation	EYFS	KS1		KS2			
	Early Learning Goals	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Sentence Construction and Tense	Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.	To use simple sentence structures.	<p>To use the present tense and the past tense mostly correctly and consistently.</p> <p>To form sentences with different forms: statement, question, exclamation, command.</p> <p>To use some features of written Standard English.</p>	<p>To try to maintain the correct tense (including the present perfect tense) throughout a piece of writing with accurate subject/verb agreement.</p> <p>To use 'a' or 'an' correctly throughout a piece of writing.</p>	<p>To always maintain an accurate tense throughout a piece of writing.</p> <p>To always use Standard English verb inflections accurately, e.g. 'we were' rather than 'we was' and 'I did' rather than 'I done'.</p>	<p>To use a range of adverbs and modal verbs to indicate degrees of possibility, e.g. surely, perhaps, should, might, etc.</p> <p>To ensure the consistent and correct use of tense throughout all pieces of writing.</p>	To ensure the consistent and correct use of tense throughout all pieces of writing, including the correct subject and verb agreement when using singular and plural.
Use of Phrases		<p>To use the joining word (conjunction) 'and' to link ideas and sentences.</p> <p>To begin to form simple compound sentences.</p>	<p>To use co-ordination (or/and/but).</p> <p>To use some subordination (when/if/that/because).</p> <p>To use expanded noun phrases to describe and specify (e.g. the blue butterfly).</p>	To use subordinate clauses, extending the range of sentences with more than one clause by using a wider range of conjunctions, including when, if, because, and although.	To use subordinate clauses, extending the range of sentences with more than one clause by using a wider range of conjunctions, which are sometimes in varied positions within sentences.	To use a wide range of linking words/phrases between sentences and paragraphs to build cohesion, including time adverbials (e.g. later), place adverbials (e.g. nearby) and number (e.g. secondly).	<p>To use the subjunctive form in formal writing.</p> <p>To use the perfect form of verbs to mark relationships of time and cause.</p> <p>To use the passive voice.</p>

and Clauses				To use a range of conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to show time, place and cause.	To expand noun phrases with the addition of ambitious modifying adjectives and prepositional phrases, e.g. the heroic soldier with an unbreakable spirit. To consistently choose nouns or pronouns appropriately to aid cohesion and avoid repetition, e.g. he, she, they, it.	To use relative clauses beginning with a relative pronoun with confidence (who, which, where, when, whose, that and omitted relative pronouns), e.g. Professor Scriffle, who was a famous inventor, had made a new discovery.	To use question tags in informal writing.
Punctuation		To use capital letters for names, places, the days of the week and the personal pronoun 'I'. To use finger spaces. To use full stops to end sentences. To begin to use question marks and exclamation marks.	To use the full range of punctuation taught at key stage 1 mostly correctly including: - capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks; - commas to separate lists; - apostrophe to mark singular possession and contractions.	To use the full range of punctuation from previous year groups. To punctuate direct speech accurately, including the use of inverted commas.	To use all of the necessary punctuation in direct speech, including a comma after the reporting clause and all end punctuation within the inverted commas. To consistently use apostrophes for singular and plural possession.	To use commas consistently to clarify meaning or to avoid ambiguity. To use brackets, dashes or commas to indicate parenthesis.	To use the full range of punctuation taught at key stage 2 correctly, including consistent and accurate use of semi-colons, dashes, colons, hyphens, and, when necessary, to use such punctuation precisely to enhance meaning and avoid ambiguity.
Use of Terminology		To recognise and use the terms letter, capital letter, word, singular, plural, sentence, punctuation, full stop, question mark and exclamation mark.	To recognise and use the terms noun, noun phrase, statement, question, exclamation, command, compound, suffix, adjective, adverb, verb, present tense, past tense, apostrophe and comma.	To recognise and use the terms preposition, conjunction, word family, prefix, clause, subordinate clause, direct speech, consonant, consonant letter, vowel, vowel letter and inverted commas (or speech marks).	To recognise and use the terms determiner, pronoun, possessive pronoun and adverbial.	To recognise and use the terms modal verb, relative pronoun, relative clause, parenthesis, bracket, dash, cohesion and ambiguity.	To recognise and use the terms subject, object, active, passive, synonym, antonym, ellipsis, hyphen, colon, semi-colon and bullet points.

**These are detailed in the word lists within the spelling appendix to the national curriculum (English appendix 1). Teachers should refer to these to exemplify the words that pupils should be able to read as well as spell.*

**** All LKS2 and UKS2 spelling rules are broken down to match the RWI Overviews for [Y3/Y4](#), [Y5](#) and [Y6](#).**