



KS1 and KS2 Writing Progression

Updated July 2020

	Year 1	Year 2
Phonic & Whole word spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> words containing each of the 40+ phonemes taught common exception words the days of the week name the letters of the alphabet in order using letter names to distinguish between alternative spellings of the same sound 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 distinguishing between homophones and near-homophones
Other word building spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 apply simple spelling rules and guidance from Spelling Appendix 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> learning the possessive apostrophe (singular) learning to spell more words with contracted forms add suffixes to spell longer words, including –ment, –ness, –ful, –less, –ly apply spelling rules and guidelines from Spelling Appendix
Transcription	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> write from memory simple sentences dictated by the teacher that include words using the GPCs and common exception words taught so far 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> write from memory simple sentences dictated by the teacher that include words using the GPCs, common exception words and punctuation taught so far
Handwriting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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' and to practise these 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
Contexts for Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Touse a number of simple features of different text types and to make relevant choices about subject matter and appropriate vocabulary choices. To start to engage readers by using adjectives to describe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> writing narratives about personal experiences and those of others (real and fictional) writing about real events writing poetry writing for different purposes
Planning Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> saying out loud what they are going to write about composing a sentence orally before writing it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> planning or saying out loud what they are going to write about
Drafting Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sequencing sentences to form short narratives re-reading what they have written to check that it makes sense 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> writing down ideas and/or key words, including new vocabulary encapsulating what they want to say, sentence by sentence
Editing Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> discuss what they have written with the teacher or other pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

	Year 1	Year 2
Performing Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • read their writing aloud clearly enough to be heard by their peers and the teacher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • read aloud what they have written with appropriate intonation to make the meaning clear
Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • leaving spaces between words • joining words and joining clauses using "and" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expanded noun phrases to describe and specify
Grammar (edited to reflect content in VGP Appendix)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular plural noun suffixes (-s, -es) • verb suffixes where root word is unchanged (-ing, -ed, -er) • un- prefix to change meaning of adjectives/adverbs • to combine words to make sentences, including using and • Sequencing sentences to form short narratives • separation of words with spaces • sentence demarcation (. ! ?) • capital letters for names and pronoun 'I') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sentences with different forms: statement, question, exclamation, command • 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) • some features of written Standard English • suffixes to form new words (-ful, -er, -ness) • sentence demarcation • commas in lists • apostrophes for omission & singular possession
Punctuation (edited to reflect content in VGP Appendix)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learning how to use both familiar and new punctuation correctly, including full stops, capital letters, exclamation marks, question marks, commas for lists and apostrophes for contracted forms and the possessive (singular)
Grammatical Terminology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • letter, capital letter, word, singular, plural, sentence, punctuation, full stop, question mark, exclamation mark 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • noun, noun phrase, statement, question, exclamation, command, compound, adjective, verb, suffix, adverb, tense (past, present), apostrophe, comma

	Year 3	Year 4
Phonic & Whole word spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To spell words with the / eɪ/ sound spelt 'ei', 'eigh', or 'ey' (e.g. vein, weigh, eight, neighbour, they, obey). To spell words with the /ɪ/ sound spelt 'y' in a position other than at the end of words (e.g. mystery, gym). To spell words with a /k/ sound spelt with 'ch' (e.g. scheme, chorus, chemist, echo, character). To spell words ending in the /g/ sound spelt 'gue' and the /k/ sound spelt 'que' (e.g. league, tongue, antique, unique). To spell words with a / sh/ sound spelt with 'ch' (e.g. chef, chalet, machine, brochure). To spell words with a short /u/ sound spelt with 'ou' (e.g. young, touch, double, trouble, country). To spell words ending with the /zher/ sound spelt with 'sure' (e.g. measure, treasure, pleasure, enclosure). To spell words ending with the /cher/ sound spelt with 'ture' (e.g. creature, furniture, picture, nature, adventure). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To spell words with / shuhn/ endings spelt with 'sion' (if the root word ends in 'se', 'de' or 'd', e.g. division, invasion, confusion, decision, collision, television). To spell words with a / shuhn/ sound spelt with 'ssion' (if the root word ends in 'ss' or 'mit', e.g. expression, discussion, confession, permission, admission). To spell words with a / shuhn/ sound spelt with 'tion' (if the root word ends in 'te' or 't' or has no definite root, e.g. invention, injection, action, hesitation, completion). To spell words with a / shuhn/ sound spelt with 'cian' (if the root word ends in 'c' or 'cs', e.g. musician, electrician, magician, politician, mathematician). To spell words with the /s/ sound spelt with 'sc' (e.g. sound spelt with 'sc' (e.g. science, scene, discipline, fascinate, crescent).
Other word building spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To spell most words with the prefixes dis-, mis-, bi-, re- and de- correctly (e.g. disobey, mistreat, bicycle, reapply, defuse). To spell most words with the suffix -ly with no change to the root word; root words that end in 'le', 'al' or 'ic' and the exceptions to the rules. To spell words with added suffixes beginning with a vowel (-er/-ed/- ing) to words with more than one syllable (unstressed last syllable, e.g. limiting offering). To spell words with added suffixes beginning with a vowel (-er/-ed/- en/-ing) to words with more than one syllable (stressed last syllable, e.g. forgotten beginning). To spell some more complex homophones and near-homophones, including here/hear, brake/break and mail/ male. To use the first two or three letters of a word to check its spelling in a dictionary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To correctly spell most words with the prefixes in-, il-, im-, ir-, sub-, super-, anti-, auto-, inter-, ex- and non- (e.g. incorrect, illegal, impossible, irrelevant, substandard, superhero, autograph, antisocial, intercity, exchange, nonsense). To form nouns with the suffix -ation (e.g. information, adoration, sensation, preparation, admiration). To spell words with the suffix -ous with no change to root words, no definitive root word, words ending in 'y', 'our' or 'e' and the exceptions to the rule (e.g. joyous, fabulous, mysterious, rigorous, famous, advantageous). 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). To use their spelling knowledge to use a dictionary more efficiently.

	Year 3	Year 4
Transcription	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write from memory simple sentences, dictated by the teacher, that include words and punctuation taught so far 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write from memory simple sentences, dictated by the teacher, that include words and punctuation taught so far
Handwriting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To use a neat, joined handwriting style with increasing accuracy and speed. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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]. • To confidently use diagonal and horizontal joining strokes throughout their independent writing to increase fluency.
Contexts for Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • To begin to use the structure of a wide range of text types (including the use of simple layout devices in non-fiction). • To make deliberate ambitious word choices to add detail. • To begin to create settings, characters and plot in narratives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To write a range of narratives and non-fiction pieces using a consistent and appropriate structure (including genre-specific layout devices). • To write a range of narratives that are well-structured and well-paced. • To create detailed settings, characters and plot in narratives to engage the reader and to add atmosphere. • 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.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To begin to use ideas from their own reading and modelled examples to plan their writing. • To compose and rehearse sentences orally (including dialogue). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discussing and recording ideas composing and rehearsing sentences orally (including dialogue), progressively building a varied and rich vocabulary and an increasing range of sentence structures
Drafting Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To begin to organise their writing into paragraphs around a theme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consistently organise their writing into paragraphs around a theme to add cohesion and to aid the reader.
Editing Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To proofread their own and others' work to check for errors (with increasing accuracy) and to make improvements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To proofread consistently and amend their own and others' writing, correcting errors in grammar, punctuation and spelling and adding nouns/ pronouns for cohesion.
Performing Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extending the range of sentences with more than one clause by using a wider range of conjunctions, including when, if, because, although • adverbs (then, next, soon, therefore) and prepositions (before, after, during, in, because of) • choosing nouns or pronouns appropriately for clarity and cohesion and to avoid repetition • using conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to express time and cause (and place) • fronted adverbials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extending the range of sentences with more than one clause by using a wider range of conjunctions, including when, if, because, although • adverbs (then, next, soon, therefore) and prepositions (before, after, during, in, because of) • choosing nouns or pronouns appropriately for clarity and cohesion and to avoid repetition • using conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to express time and cause (and place) • fronted adverbials

	Year 3	Year 4
Grammar (edited to reflect content in VGP Appendix)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To try to maintain the correct tense (including the present perfect tense) throughout a piece of writing with accurate subject/verb agreement. To use 'a' or 'an' correctly throughout a piece of writing. 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 a range of conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to show time, place and cause. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To always maintain an accurate tense throughout a piece of writing. To always use Standard English verb inflections accurately, e.g. 'we were' rather than 'we was' and 'I did' rather than 'I done'. 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 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.
Punctuation (edited to reflect content in VGP Appendix)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To use the full range of punctuation from previous year groups. To punctuate direct speech accurately, including the use of inverted commas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Grammatical Terminology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> preposition conjunction, word family, prefix, clause, subordinate clause, direct speech, consonant, consonant letter vowel, vowel letter, inverted commas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> determiner, pronoun, possessive pronoun, adverbial

	Year 5	Year 6
Phonic & Whole word spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To spell words with endings that sound like / shuhs/ spelt with -cious (e.g. vicious, precious, conscious, delicious, malicious, suspicious). To spell words with endings that sound like / shuhs/ spelt with -tious or -ious (e.g. ambitious, cautious, fictitious, infectious, nutritious). To spell words with 'silent' letters (e.g. doubt, island, lamb, solemn, thistle, knight). To spell words containing the letter string 'ough' (e.g. ought, bought, thought, nought, brought, fought, rough, tough, enough, cough, though, although, dough, through, thorough, borough, plough, bough). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To spell words ending in -able and -ably (e.g. adorable/ adorably, applicable/ applicably, considerable/ considerably, tolerable/ tolerably). To spell words ending in -ible and -ibly (e.g. possible/ possibly, horrible/ horribly, terrible/ terribly, visible/ visibly, incredible/ incredibly, sensible/ sensibly). 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). To spell words with endings which sound like /shuhl/ after a vowel letter using 'cial' (e.g. official, special, artificial). To spell words with endings which sound like /shuhl/ after a vowel letter using 'tial' (e.g. partial, confidential, essential).
Other word building spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To convert nouns or adjectives into verbs using the suffix -ate (e.g. activate, motivate communicate). To convert nouns or adjectives into verbs using the suffix -ise (e.g. criticise, advertise, capitalise). To convert nouns or adjectives into verbs using the suffix -ify (e.g. signify, falsify, glorify). To convert nouns or adjectives into verbs using the suffix -en (e.g. blacken, brighten, flatten). To spell complex homophones and near-homophones, including who's/whose and stationary/ stationery. To use the first three or four letters of a word to check spelling, meaning or both of these in a dictionary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To use their knowledge of adjectives ending in -ant to spell nouns ending in -ance/-ancy (e.g. observant, observance, expectant, hesitant, hesitancy, tolerant, tolerance, substance). To use their knowledge of adjectives ending in -ent to spell nouns ending in -ence/-ency (e.g. innocent, innocence, decent, decency, frequent, frequency, confident, confidence, obedient, obedience, independent). To spell words by 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 spell homophones and near homophones that include nouns that end in -ce/-cy and verbs that end in -se/-sy (e.g. practice/ practise, licence/license, advice/advise). To spell words that contain hyphens (e.g. co-ordinate, re-enter, co-operate, co-own). To use a knowledge of morphology and etymology in spelling and understand that the spelling of some words needs to be learnt specifically. To use dictionaries and thesauruses to check the spelling and meaning of words and confidently find synonyms and antonyms.
Handwriting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. To be clear about what standard of handwriting is appropriate for a particular task, e.g. quick notes or a final handwritten version. To confidently use diagonal and horizontal joining strokes throughout their independent writing in a legible, fluent and speedy way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed by: <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. 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).

	Year 5	Year 6
Contexts for Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. To describe settings, characters and atmosphere with carefully-chosen vocabulary to enhance mood, clarify meaning and create pace. To regularly use dialogue to convey a character and to advance the action. To perform their own compositions confidently using appropriate intonation, volume and movement so that meaning is clear. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.). To distinguish between the language of speech and writing and to choose the appropriate level of formality. 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).
Planning Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note down and develop initial ideas, drawing on reading and research where necessary.
Drafting Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider, when planning narratives, how authors have developed characters and settings in what pupils have read, listened to or seen performed. To consistently link ideas across paragraphs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To use further organisational and presentational devices to structure text and to guide the reader (e.g. headings, bullet points, underlining). To use a wide range of devices to build cohesion within and across paragraphs.
Editing Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To proofread work to précis longer passages by removing unnecessary repetition or irrelevant details. To proofread their work to assess the effectiveness of their own and others' writing and to make necessary corrections and improvements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To habitually proofread for spelling and punctuation errors. To propose changes to vocabulary, grammar and punctuation to enhance effects and clarify meaning. To recognise how words are related by meaning as synonyms and antonyms and to use this knowledge to make improvements to their writing.
Performing Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> perform their own compositions, using appropriate intonation, volume, and movement so that meaning is clear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> perform their own compositions, using appropriate intonation, volume, and movement so that meaning is clear
Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use a thesaurus using expanded noun phrases to convey complicated information concisely using modal verbs or adverbs to indicate degrees of possibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use a thesaurus using expanded noun phrases to convey complicated information concisely using modal verbs or adverbs to indicate degrees of possibility

	Year 5	Year 6
Grammar (edited to reflect content in VGP Appendix)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using the perfect form of verbs to mark relationships of time and cause • using relative clauses beginning with who, which, where, when, whose, that or with an implied (i.e. omitted) relative pronoun • converting nouns or adjectives into verbs using suffixes • verb prefixes • devices to build cohesion, including adverbials of time, place and number 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognising vocabulary and structures that are appropriate for formal speech and writing, including subjunctive forms • using passive verbs to affect the presentation of information in a sentence • using the perfect form of verbs to mark relationships of time and cause • differences in informal and formal language • synonyms and antonyms • further cohesive devices such as grammatical connections and adverbials • use of ellipsis
Punctuation (edited to reflect content in VGP Appendix)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using commas to clarify meaning or avoid ambiguity in writing • hyphen • using brackets, dashes or commas to indicate parenthesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using hyphens to avoid ambiguity • semi-colons, colons or dashes to mark boundaries between independent clauses • colon to introduce a list • punctuating bullet points consistently
Grammatical Terminology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • modal verb, relative pronoun, relative clause, parenthesis, bracket, dash, cohesion, ambiguity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • subject, object, active, passive, synonym, antonym, ellipsis, hyphen, colon, semi-colon, bullet point