

Spelling progression through the years

	EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Years 3 and 4	Years 5 and 6
Statutory requirements	<p>40 – 60 months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hears and says the initial sound in words. Can segment the sounds in simple words and blend them together. Links sounds to letters, naming and sounding the letters of the alphabet. Uses some clearly identifiable letters to communicate meaning, representing some sounds correctly and in sequence. Writes own name and other things such as labels, captions. Attempts to write short sentences in meaningful contexts. <p>Early Learning Goal Children use their phonic knowledge to write words in ways which match their spoken sounds. They also write some irregular common words. They write simple sentences which can be read by themselves and others. Some words are spelt correctly and others are phonetically plausible.</p>	<p>(see English Appendix 1)</p> <p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <p>spell:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> words containing each of the 40+ phonemes already taught common exception words the days of the week name the letters of the alphabet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> naming the letters of the alphabet in order using letter names to distinguish between alternative spellings of the same sound add prefixes and suffixes: <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 [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. 	<p>(see English Appendix 1)</p> <p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <p>spell by:</p> <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 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 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. 	<p>(see English Appendix 1)</p> <p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use further prefixes and suffixes and understand how to add them (English Appendix 1) spell further homophones spell words that are often misspelt (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 two or three 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. 	<p>(see English Appendix 1)</p> <p>Pupils should be taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use further prefixes and suffixes and understand the guidance for adding them spell some words with ‘silent’ letters [for example, knight, psalm, solemn] continue to distinguish between homophones and other words which are often confused use knowledge of morphology and etymology in spelling and understand that the spelling of some words needs to be learnt specifically, as listed in English Appendix 1 use dictionaries to check the spelling and meaning of words use the first three or four letters of a word to check spelling, meaning or both of these in a dictionary use a thesaurus.

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.

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.

Pupils should learn to spell new words correctly and have plenty of practice in spelling them.

As in years 1 and 2, pupils should continue to be supported in understanding and applying the concepts of word structure (see [English Appendix 2](#)).

Pupils need sufficient knowledge of spelling in order to use dictionaries efficiently.

As in earlier years, pupils should continue to be taught to understand and apply the concepts of word structure so that they can draw on their knowledge of morphology and etymology to spell correctly.