



# Year 1 English Overview

## Spoken Language (Years 1-6)

Pupils should be taught to:

- listen and respond appropriately to adults and their peers
- ask relevant questions to extend their understanding and knowledge
- use relevant strategies to build their vocabulary
- articulate and justify answers, arguments and opinions
- give well-structured descriptions, explanations and narratives for different purposes, including for expressing feelings
- maintain attention and participate actively in collaborative conversations, staying on topic and initiating and responding to comments
- use spoken language to develop understanding through speculating, hypothesising, imagining and exploring ideas
- speak audibly and fluently with an increasing command of Standard English
- participate in discussions, presentations, performances, role play, improvisations and debates
- gain, maintain and monitor the interest of the listener(s)
- consider and evaluate different viewpoints, attending to and building on the contributions of others
- select and use appropriate registers for effective communication.

### Reading – Word Recognition

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.

### 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 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.

### Writing - Transcription

### Writing - Handwriting

### Writing – Vocabulary, Grammar and Punctuation

### Writing - Composition

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

Pupils should be taught to:  
spell:

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

Pupils should be taught to:

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

Pupils should be taught to:

*write sentences by:*

- saying out loud what they are going to write about

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ words containing each of the 40+ phonemes already taught</li> <li>▪ common exception words</li> <li>▪ the days of the week</li> <li>▪ name the letters of the alphabet:</li> <li>▪ naming the letters of the alphabet in order</li> <li>▪ using letter names to distinguish between alternative spellings of the same sound</li> </ul> <p><i>add prefixes and suffixes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ using the spelling rule for adding –s or –es as the plural marker for nouns and the third person singular marker for verbs</li> <li>▪ using the prefix un–</li> <li>▪ 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]</li> <li>▪ apply simple spelling rules and guidance, as listed in <a href="#">English Appendix 1</a></li> <li>▪ write from memory simple sentences dictated by the teacher that include words using the GPCs and common exception words taught so far.</li> </ul>	<p>direction, starting and finishing in the right place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ form capital letters</li> <li>▪ form digits 0-9</li> <li>▪ understand which letters belong to which handwriting ‘families’ (i.e. letters that are formed in similar ways) and to practise these.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ leaving spaces between words</li> <li>▪ joining words and joining clauses using and</li> <li>▪ beginning to punctuate sentences using a capital letter and a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark</li> <li>▪ using a capital letter for names of people, places, the days of the week, and the personal pronoun ‘I’</li> <li>▪ learning the grammar for year 1 in English Appendix 2</li> <li>▪ use the grammatical terminology in English Appendix 2 in discussing their writing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ composing a sentence orally before writing it</li> <li>▪ sequencing sentences to form short narratives</li> <li>▪ re-reading what they have written to check that it makes sense</li> <li>▪ discuss what they have written with the teacher or other pupils</li> <li>▪ read aloud their writing clearly enough to be heard by their peers and the teacher.</li> </ul>
---	--	--	--

**Please note:**

- Writing skills (VGP and Composition especially) to be taught, repeated and consolidated throughout the year using whole texts or through making links to other curriculum areas
- VGP **not** to be taught discretely
- Less emphasis on covering many ‘Genres’ and more emphasis on consolidating writing skills by basing writing opportunities on own experiences and familiar stories.

<b>Year 1 Fiction genres</b>	<b>Year 1 Non-Fiction genres</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fairy stories and traditional tales</li> <li>• Stories with ‘predictable phrases’ and patterned language</li> <li>• Poetry (not writing poetry)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labels and captions</li> <li>• Recounts – Writing about own experiences</li> </ul>

## English Appendix I - Spelling – work for year I (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

The sounds /f/, /l/, /s/, /z/ and /k/ spelt ff, ll, ss, zz and ck

The /ŋ/ sound spelt n before k

Division of words into syllables

### Rules and guidance (non-statutory)

The /f/, /l/, /s/, /z/ and /k/ sounds are usually spelt as **ff, ll, ss, zz** and **ck** if they come straight after a single vowel letter in short words. **Exceptions:** if, pal, us, bus, yes.

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.

### Example words (non-statutory)

off, well, miss, buzz, back

bank, think, honk, sunk

pocket, rabbit, carrot, thunder, sunset

### Statutory requirements

-tch

The /v/ sound at the end of words

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

Adding -er and -est to adjectives where no change is needed to the root word

### Rules and guidance (non-statutory)

The /tʃ/ sound is usually spelt as **tch** if it comes straight after a single vowel letter. **Exceptions:** rich, which, much, such.

English words hardly ever end with the letter **v**, so if a word ends with a /v/ sound, the letter **e** usually needs to be added after the 'v'.

If the ending sounds like /s/ or /z/, it is spelt as **-s**. If the ending sounds like /ɪz/ and forms an extra syllable or 'beat' in the word, it is spelt as **-es**.

**-ing** and **-er** always add an extra syllable to the word and **-ed** sometimes does. 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 **-ed**. If the verb ends in two consonant letters (the same or different), the ending is simply added on.

As with verbs (see above), if the adjective ends in two consonant letters (the same or different), the ending is simply added on.

### Example words (non-statutory)

catch, fetch, kitchen, notch, hutch

have, live, give

cats, dogs, spends, rocks, thanks, catches

hunting, hunted, hunter, buzzing, buzzed, buzzer, jumping, jumped, jumper

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 schwa 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/)	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
ow (/əʊ/)		own, blow, snow, grow, show
ue		blue, clue, true, rescue, Tuesday
ew		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

Vowel digraphs and trigraphs
au
air
ear
ear (/ɛə/)
are (/ɛə/)

Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
	author, August, dinosaur, astronaut
	air, fair, pair, hair, chair
	dear, hear, beard, near, year
	bear, pear, wear
	bare, dare, care, share, scared

Statutory requirements
Words ending -y (/i:/ or /ɪ/)
New consonant spellings ph and wh
Using k for the /k/ sound
Adding the prefix -un
Compound words
Common exception words

Rules and guidance (non-statutory)	Example words (non-statutory)
	very, happy, funny, party, family
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
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
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 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
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

English Appendix 2 - Year 1: Detail of content to be introduced (statutory requirement)	
<b>Word</b>	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 <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> ) How the <b>prefix un-</b> changes the meaning of <b>verbs</b> and <b>adjectives</b> [negation, for example, <i>unkind, or undoing: untie the boat</i> ]
<b>Sentence</b>	How <b>words</b> can combine to make <b>sentences</b> Joining <b>words</b> and joining <b>clauses</b> using <i>and</i>
<b>Text</b>	Sequencing <b>sentences</b> to form short narratives
<b>Punctuation</b>	Separation of <b>words</b> with spaces Introduction to capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks to demarcate <b>sentences</b> Capital letters for names and for the personal <b>pronoun I</b>
<b>Terminology for pupils</b>	letter, capital letter word, singular, plural sentence punctuation, full stop, question mark, exclamation mark