

Years 3 and 4 programme of study

Reading – word reading

Statutory requirements

Pupils should be taught to:

- apply their growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes (etymology and morphology) as listed in [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.

Reading – comprehension

Statutory requirements

Pupils should be taught to:

- develop positive attitudes to reading and 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

Statutory requirements

- 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 one 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 – transcription

Statutory requirements

Spelling

Pupils should be taught to:

- use further prefixes and suffixes and understand how to add them
- spell further homophones
- spell words that are often misspelt
- 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.

Statutory requirements

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; that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch].

Writing – composition

Statutory requirements

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
 - 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
- proof-read for spelling and punctuation errors
- read aloud their own writing, to a group or the whole class, using appropriate intonation and controlling the tone and volume so that the meaning is clear.

Writing – vocabulary, grammar and punctuation

Statutory requirements

Pupils should be taught to:

- develop their understanding of the concepts 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

Statutory requirements

- repetition
 - using conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to express time and cause
 - using fronted adverbials
 - learning the grammar for years 3 and 4
- 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 accurately and appropriately when discussing their writing and reading.