

## National Curriculum Requirements of English at Key Stage 2

English has a pre-eminent place in education and in society. A high-quality education in English will teach pupils to speak and write fluently so that they can communicate their ideas and emotions to others and through their reading and listening, others can communicate with them. Through reading in particular, pupils have a chance to develop culturally, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually. Literature, especially, plays a key role in such development. Reading also enables pupils both to acquire knowledge and to build on what they already know. All the skills of language are essential to participating fully as a member of society; pupils, therefore, who do not learn to speak, read and write fluently and confidently are effectively disenfranchised

The overarching aim for English in the national curriculum is to promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping pupils with a strong command of the spoken and written word, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment. The national curriculum for English aims to ensure that all pupils: ♣ read easily, fluently and with good understanding ♣ develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information ♣ acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language ♣ appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage ♣ write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences ♣ use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas ♣ are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate.

### Years 3 and 4 programme of study;

*By the beginning of year 3, pupils should be able to read books written at an age appropriate interest level. They should be able to read them accurately and at a speed that is sufficient for them to focus on understanding what they read rather than on decoding individual words. They should be able to decode most new words outside their spoken vocabulary, making a good approximation to the word's pronunciation. As their decoding skills become increasingly secure, teaching should be directed more towards developing their vocabulary and the breadth and depth of their reading, making sure that they become independent, fluent and enthusiastic readers who read widely and frequently. They should be developing their understanding and enjoyment of stories, poetry, plays and non-fiction, and learning to read silently. They should also be developing their knowledge and skills in reading non-fiction about a wide range of subjects. They should be learning to justify their views about what they have read: with support at the start of year 3 and increasingly independently by the end of year 4. Pupils should be able to write down their ideas with a reasonable degree of accuracy and with good sentence punctuation. Teachers should therefore be consolidating pupils' writing skills, their vocabulary, their grasp of sentence structure and their knowledge of linguistic terminology. Teaching them to develop as writers involves teaching them to enhance the effectiveness of what they write as well as increasing their competence. Teachers should make sure that pupils build on what they have learnt, particularly in terms of the range of their writing and the more varied*

*grammar, vocabulary and narrative structures from which they can draw to express their ideas. Pupils should be beginning to understand how writing can be different from speech. Joined handwriting should be the norm; pupils should be able to use it fast enough to keep pace with what they want to say. Pupils' spelling of common words should be correct, including common exception words and other words that they have learnt (see English Appendix 1 in NC). Pupils should spell words as accurately as possible using their phonic knowledge and other knowledge of spelling, such as morphology and etymology. Most pupils will not need further direct teaching of word reading skills: they are able to decode unfamiliar words accurately, and need very few repeated experiences of this before the word is stored in such a way that they can read it without overt sound-blending. They should demonstrate understanding of figurative language, distinguish shades of meaning among related words and use age-appropriate, academic vocabulary. As in key stage 1, however, pupils who are still struggling to decode need to be taught to do this urgently through a rigorous and systematic phonics programme so that they catch up rapidly with their peers. If they cannot decode independently and fluently, they will find it increasingly difficult to understand what they read and to write down what they want to say. As far as possible, however, these pupils should follow the year 3 and 4 programme English – key stages 1 and 2 24 of study in terms of listening to new books, hearing and learning new vocabulary and grammatical structures, and discussing these. Specific requirements for pupils to discuss what they are learning and to develop their wider skills in spoken language form part of this programme of study. In years 3 and 4, pupils should become more familiar with and confident in using language in a greater variety of situations, for a variety of audiences and purposes, including through drama, formal presentations and debate.*

#### Reading – word reading

Pupils should be taught to: apply their growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes (etymology and morphology) as listed in English Appendix 1 of NC, 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

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 ♣ 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**

#### **Spelling**

Pupils should be taught to: ♣ use further prefixes and suffixes and understand how to add them (English Appendix 1 in NC) ♣ spell further homophones ♣ spell words that are often misspelt (English Appendix 1 in NC) ♣ 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. English – key stages 1 and 2 28 Notes and guidance (non-statutory) 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 in NC). Pupils need sufficient knowledge of spelling in order to use dictionaries efficiently.

#### **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**

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 (English Appendix 2 in NC) ♣ 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**

Pupils should be taught to: ♣ develop their understanding of the concepts set out in English Appendix 2 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 repetition ♣ using conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to express time and cause ♣ using fronted adverbials ♣ learning the grammar for years 3 and 4 in English Appendix 2 ♣ 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 in English Appendix 2 accurately and appropriately when discussing their writing and reading

### Years 5 and 6 programme of study;

*By the beginning of year 5, pupils should be able to read aloud a wider range of poetry and books written at an age-appropriate interest level with accuracy and at a reasonable speaking pace. They should be able to read most words effortlessly and to work out how to pronounce unfamiliar written words with increasing automaticity. If the pronunciation sounds unfamiliar, they should ask for help in determining both the meaning of the word and how to pronounce it correctly. They should be able to prepare readings, with appropriate intonation to show their understanding, and should be able to summarise and present a familiar story in their own words. They should be reading widely and frequently, outside as well as in school, for pleasure and information. They should be able to read silently, with good understanding, inferring the meanings of unfamiliar words, and then discuss what they have read. Pupils should be able to write down their ideas quickly. Their grammar and punctuation should be broadly accurate. Pupils' spelling of most words taught so far should be accurate and they should be able to spell words that they have not yet been taught by using what they have learnt about how spelling works in English. During years 5 and 6, teachers should continue to emphasise pupils' enjoyment and understanding of language, especially vocabulary, to support their reading and writing. Pupils' knowledge of language, gained from stories, plays, poetry, non-fiction and textbooks, will support their increasing fluency as readers, their facility as writers, and their comprehension. As in years 3 and 4, pupils should be taught to enhance the effectiveness of their writing as well as their competence. It is essential that pupils whose decoding skills are poor are taught through a rigorous and systematic phonics programme so that they catch up rapidly with their peers in terms of their decoding and spelling. However, as far as possible, these pupils should follow the upper key stage 2 programme of study in terms of listening to books and other writing that they have not come across before, hearing and learning new vocabulary and grammatical structures, and having a chance to talk about all of these. By the end of year 6, pupils' reading and writing should be sufficiently fluent and effortless for them to manage the general demands of the curriculum in year 7, across all subjects and not just in English, but there will continue to be a need for pupils to learn subjectspecific vocabulary. They should be able to reflect their understanding of the audience for and purpose of their writing by selecting appropriate vocabulary and grammar. Teachers should prepare pupils for secondary education by ensuring that they can consciously control sentence structure in their writing and understand why sentences are constructed as they are. Pupils should understand nuances in vocabulary choice and age-appropriate, academic vocabulary. This involves consolidation, practice and discussion of language. English – key stages 1 and 2. Specific requirements for pupils to discuss what they are learning and to develop their wider skills in spoken language form*

*part of this programme of study. In years 5 and 6, pupils' confidence, enjoyment and mastery of language should be extended through public speaking, performance and debate*

### **Reading – word reading**

Pupils should be taught to: ♣ apply their growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes (morphology and etymology), as listed in English Appendix 1 in NC, both to read aloud and to understand the meaning of new words that they meet

### **Reading – comprehension**

Pupils should be taught to: ♣ maintain positive attitudes to reading and understanding of what they read by: ♣ continuing to read and discuss an increasingly 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 ♣ increasing their familiarity with a wide range of books, including myths, legends and traditional stories, modern fiction, fiction from our literary heritage, and books from other cultures and traditions ♣ recommending books that they have read to their peers, giving reasons for their choices ♣ identifying and discussing themes and conventions in and across a wide range of writing ♣ making comparisons within and across books ♣ learning a wider range of poetry by heart ♣ preparing poems and plays to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding through intonation, tone and volume so that the meaning is clear to an audience ♣ understand what they read by: ♣ checking that the book makes sense to them, discussing their understanding and exploring the meaning of words in context ♣ asking questions to improve their understanding ♣ 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 ♣ summarising the main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph, identifying key details that support the main ideas ♣ identifying how language, structure and presentation contribute to meaning ♣ discuss and evaluate how authors use language, including figurative language, considering the impact on the reader ♣ distinguish between statements of fact and opinion ♣ retrieve, record and present information from non-fiction ♣ participate in discussions about books that are read to them and those they can read for themselves, building on their own and others' ideas and challenging views courteously ♣ explain and discuss their understanding of what they have read, including through formal presentations and debates, maintaining a focus on the topic and using notes where necessary ♣ provide reasoned justifications for their views.

### **Writing – transcription**

#### **Spelling**

Pupils should be taught to: ♣ 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 in



NC ♣ 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.

### **Handwriting and presentation**

Pupils should be taught to: ♣ write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed by: ♣ 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.

### **Writing – composition**

Pupils should be taught 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 ♣ noting and developing initial ideas, drawing on reading and research where necessary ♣ in writing narratives, considering how authors have developed characters and settings in what pupils have read, listened to or seen performed ♣ draft and write by: ♣ selecting appropriate grammar and vocabulary, understanding how such choices can change and enhance meaning ♣ in narratives, describing settings, characters and atmosphere and integrating dialogue to convey character and advance the action ♣ précis longer passages ♣ using a wide range of devices to build cohesion within and across paragraphs ♣ using further organisational and presentational devices to structure text and to guide the reader [for example, headings, bullet points, underlining] ♣ evaluate and edit by: ♣ assessing the effectiveness of their own and others' writing ♣ proposing changes to vocabulary, grammar and punctuation to enhance effects and clarify meaning ♣ ensuring the consistent and correct use of tense throughout a piece of writing ♣ ensuring correct subject and verb agreement when using singular and plural, distinguishing between the language of speech and writing and choosing the appropriate register ♣ proof-read for spelling and punctuation errors ♣ perform their own compositions, using appropriate intonation, volume, and movement so that meaning is clear.

### **Writing – vocabulary, grammar and punctuation**

Pupils should be taught to: ♣ develop their understanding of the concepts set out in English Appendix 2 in NC by: ♣ 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 ♣ using expanded noun phrases to convey complicated information concisely ♣ using modal verbs or adverbs to indicate degrees of possibility ♣ using relative clauses beginning with who, which, where, when, whose, that or with an implied (i.e. omitted) relative pronoun ♣ learning the grammar for years 5 and 6 in English Appendix 2 in NC ♣ indicate grammatical and other features by: ♣ using commas to clarify meaning or avoid ambiguity in writing ♣ using hyphens to avoid ambiguity ♣ using brackets, dashes or commas to indicate parenthesis ♣ using semi-colons, colons or dashes to mark boundaries between independent clauses ♣ using a colon to introduce a list ♣ punctuating bullet points consistently ♣ use and understand the grammatical terminology in English Appendix 2 in NC accurately and appropriately in discussing their writing and reading.

