Spelling Progression Guidance: through the Primary School from Year 1

This guidance closely follows the new curriculum Programme of Study for English for 2014. Teachers will need to assess children first, in order to decide what is appropriate for their pupils.

Year Group	Expected	Spelling pattern, rule or tip	Word suggestions
Year 1 Revision of Reception work	 Revise all letters of the alphabet, and the sounds they commonly represent Revise consonant digraphs Revise vowel digraphs which have been taught Revise the process of segmenting words Revise words with adjacent consonants 		
Year 1	Statutory: • These vowel digraphs and trigraphs: • ai, oi, ay, oy, a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e, ar, ee, ea, er, ir, ur, oo, oo, oa, oe, ou, ow, ue, ew, ie, igh, or, ore, aw, au air, ear, are	Digraphs ai and oi are not used at the end of English words. ay and oy are used at the ends of words and the end of syllables	rain, wait, oil, join, day, play, boy, toy, made, came, these, theme, five, ride, home, those, June, rule, car, start, see tree, sea, dream, head, bread, her, term, better, under, girl, bird, turn, hurt, food, pool, book, took, boat, coat, toe, goes, now, how, blue, clue, new, few, lie, tie, chief, field, high, night, for, short, more, score, saw, draw, author, August, air, fair, dear, hear, bear, pear, bare (See POS for further suggestions.)
	The sounds f, I, s, k spelt ff, II, ss, zz, and ck The sounds f, I, s, k spelt ff, II, ss, zz, and ck	These sounds are usually spelt with double letters if they follow a single vowel in short words. Exceptions: if, pal, us, bus yes.	off, well, miss, buzz, back
	• nk	as, 200 yes.	bank, think, honk, sunk
	• -tch		catch, fetch kitchen
	v phoneme at the end of words	Most English words add an e after the v	have, live, give

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division of words into syllables	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.	pocket, rabbit, carrot, thunder, sunset
 adding s and es, either as plural nouns or third person singular of verbs 	If the ending sounds like 's' or 'z', it is spelt as -s. If the ending sounds like 'iz' and forms an extra beat, it is spelt as -es.	cats, dogs, rocks, catches
 adding -ing, -ed and -er to verbs where the root word doesn't change 	-ing and -er always add an extra syllable, -ed sometimes does	hunting, hunted, hunter, buzzing, buzzed, buzzer, jumping, jumped, jumper
 adding -er and -est to adjectives where the root word doesn't change 	If the adjective ends in two consonant letters (same or different), the ending is simply added on.	grander, grandest, fresher, freshest, quicker, quickest
• Words ending -y		very, happy, party, family
 Consonant spellings ph and wh 	ph is unusual in short everyday words e.g. fat, fill, fun	dolphin, alphabet, phonics, elephant, when, where, which, wheel, while
Using k for the k sound		Kent, sketch, kit, frisky
• Prefix un	un is added to the beginning of the word without any change to the root word.	unhappy, undo, unfair
Compound words	Two words joined together, spelt the same way as if on their own.	football, playground, bedroom, blackberry
 Common exception words (tricky words / red words) 	Look at grapheme /phoneme correspondences which do/do not fit in with what has been taught so far.	the, a, do, 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
Year 2	Revision from Year 1. Phonic knowledge continues to underpin spelling, but morphology becomes important, as pupils begin to learn about root words and suffixes. Show the relationship between the meaning and spelling of words.	Revise previously taught GPCs, when introducing new ones. Many words will contain both.	
	Statutory: • dge or ge phoneme at the ends of words	The letter j is never used for the 'dge' sound at the ends of English words; dge is usually used after short vowels. We usually use a g before e,i and y. We always use j before a, o and u.	badge, edge, bridge age, huge, change gem, giant, magic jacket, jar, jog, join, jump
	• s phoneme, spelt 'c' (soft c)		race, ice, cell, city, fancy
	• n phoneme, spelt 'kn' and 'gn'	The k and g at the beginning of these words was sounded hundreds of years ago.	knock, know, knee gnat, gnaw
	• r phoneme, spelt 'wr'	Also reflects old pronunciation	write, wrong, wrap, wrote
	I phoneme, spelt 'le' at the ends of words	-le is the most common spelling for this sound at the ends of words.	table, apple, bottle, little
	I phoneme, spelt 'el'	Less common than – le. Used after m,n,r,s,v,w and often	camel, tunnel, squirrel, travel, towel, tinsel
	I phoneme, spelt 'al'	s. A few nouns and several adjectives.	metal, pedal, hospital, animal final, special, critical,
	Words ending 'il'		nostril, pencil, fossil
	-y (long 'i' phoneme) at the ends of words	The most common spelling for this sound at the ends of	cry, fly, dry, try, reply, July

	words.	
 adding -es to nouns and verbs ending in -y adding -ed, -ing, -er and -est to a root word ending in -y with a consonant before it. 	Change the y to an i before adding -es Change the y to an i before adding the suffix, except for -ing. The only ordinary words with 'ii' are skiing and taxiing.	flies, tries, babies, carries copied, copier, happier, happiest, cried, replied,but copying, crying skiing, taxiing,
 adding -ing, -ed, -er -est and -y to words ending in -e, with a consonant before it. 	Drop the -e at the end of the root word before -ing, -ed, -er, -est, -y or any other suffix beginning with a vowel. The exception is being.	hiking, hiked, hiker, nicer, nicest, shiny
 adding -ing, -ed, -er, -est and -y to words of one syllable, ending in a single consonant letter after a single vowel letter. 	Double the last consonant letter of the root word, to keep the vowel short. Exception : the letter x is never doubled: <i>mixing, boxer, sixes</i>	patting, humming, dropped, sadder, fattest, runny
• the or phoneme, spelt a		always, all, ball, walk, talk
 the short u phoneme, spelt o 		other, mother brother, nothing, Monday
• the phoneme made by the grapheme -ey	The plural of these words is formed by adding -s <i>e.g.</i> donkeys, monkeys.	key, donkey, monkey, chimney, valley
 the phoneme (short o) spelt a, after the letters w and qu 	a is the most common spelling for the 'short o' sound, after w and qu	want, watch, wander, quantity, squash
• the phoneme spelt or		word, work, worm, world
after wthe phoneme spelt ar after w		war, warm, towards
 the rare phoneme spelt 's' in some words (see list) 		treasure, television, usual
• suffixes -ment, -ness,	If a suffix starts with a consonant, it is	enjoyment, sadness,

	-ful, -less and -ly	usually simply added on. Exceptions: 1) argument 2) Root words ending in -y, if the root has more than one syllable e.g. merriment, happiness, plentiful, penniless, happily	careful, playful, hopeless, plainness, badly
	 Contractions 	In contractions, the apostrophe shows the letter/s which have been omitted e.g. can't – cannot	can't, didn't, hasn't, couldn't, it's, I'll
	 Possessive apostrophe – singular nouns 	When the owner is singular, the apostrophe is placed before the s.	Megan's, Ravi's, the girl's, the child's, the man's
	 -tion Homophones and near-homophones 	It is important to know the difference in meaning between homophones.	station, fiction, motion, national, section there/their/they're, here/hear, quite/quiet, see/sea, bare/bear, one/won, sun/son, to/too/two, be/bee, blue/blew, night/knight
	Common exception words (tricky words)	Some words are exceptions in some accents but not in others, e.g. past, bath	door, floor, poor because, find, kind, mind, behind, child, children, wild, climb, most, only, both, old, cold, gold, hold, told, every, everybody, even, great, break, steak, pretty, beautiful, after, fast, last, past, father, class, grass, pass, plant, path, bath, hour, move, prove, improve, sure, sugar, eye, could, should, would, who, whole, any, many, clothes, busy, people, water, again, half, money, Mr, Mrs, parents, Christmas
Yrs 3 &4	The new POS links Years 3 & 4 together. This guidance has split requirements into suggested yearly coverage,	Increasingly, pupils need to understand the role of morphology and	

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	which should be adapted to	etymology, and to	
	suit pupil ability.	understand the link between meaning	
		and spelling, where	
		relevant.	
Year 3	Revision of Year 2 coverage.	relevant.	
Teal 5	Most children will need to revise		
	and consolidate these important,		
	basic conventions, as they form		
	part of everyday language.		
	Homophones will need revision		
	throughout lower KS2.		
	Use end of KS1 teacher		
	assessments of spelling against the POS, to identify where to		
	begin in Year 3.		
	bogin in roal o.		
	Statutory:		
	 Adding suffixes beginning 	If the last syllable is	forgetting, forgotten,
	with vowels (to words of	stressed and ends	beginning, beginner,
	more than one syllable)	with one consonant	preferred
		(which has one	
		preceding vowel) the final consonant is	
		doubled	
		e.g. forgetting	
	• The short u phoneme,	0.90.909	young, touch, double,
	spelt ou		trouble, country
	 Prefixes dis, mis, in, 	Add most prefixes to	
	super, anti	the root without	
		changing the spelling.	
		spelling.	
		Like un- , the prefixes	disappoint, disagree.
		dis- and mis- have	disobey
		negative meanings.	misbehave, mislead,
			misspell
		super- means above	supermarket, superman
		anti- means against	anti-clockwise, antiseptic
	Suffix -ation	-ation is added to	information, adoration,
	Guina -ation	verbs to make nouns	sensation, preparation
	• Suffix -ly	-ly is added to an	sadly, usually, finally,
	_	adjective to make an	completely
		adverb As -ly starts with a	
		consonant, usually	
		simply add to the	
		root word.	
		Exceptions:	
		If the root ends in -y	happily, angrily

	(with a consonant letter before it) change the y to i . If the root ends with –le , change it to –ly .	gently, simply, humbly, nobly
 Words with endings as in treasure 	Always spelt -sure	treasure, measure, pleasure, enclosure
 Words with endings as in picture 	Can be confused with words like teacher or richer.	picture, creature, furniture, nature, adventure
 Words with endings –tion, –sion and –ssion 	Clues about whether to put t , s or ss before the suffix –ion often come from the	invention, injection, action, hesitation, tension, expansion,
	last letter/s of the root word. -tion is the most common.	comprehension, expression, discussion, permission, admission
	-ssion is used if the root ends in ss or mit.	possession permission
	-sion is used if the root ends in d or se.	extend – extension
 Words with the 'ay' phoneme, spelt ei, eigh or ey 		vein, weigh, weight, eight, neighbour, they, obey
 Possessive apostrophe with plural words (Revise apostrophe with singular owners first.) 	Place the apostrophe after the plural form of the word, e.g. babies' Exceptions: see Year 4	girls', boys', babies', donkeys'
Extend known homophones or near- homophones		berry/bury, brake/break, fair/fare, grate/great, groan/grown, here/hear, heel/heal/he'll, knot/not, mail/male, main/mane, meat/meet, missed/mist, peace/piece, plain/plane/ rain/rein/reign, weather/whether, whose/who's
 Further contractions (not included in new POS) 	Extend range of contractions from Year 2. See right.	haven't, won't, shouldn't, shan't, could've, would've, you'll, he'll, she'll, they'll, we'll

Year 4	Revision of Year 3 objectives throughout lower KS2. Extend and develop to Year 4 coverage below, as appropriate.		
	Statutory:		
	Adding suffixes beginning with vowels (to words of more than one syllable)	If the last syllable is stressed and ends with one consonant (which has one preceding vowel) the final consonant is doubled e.g.	(Revise: beginning, forgetting)
		forgetting: however, the consonant is not doubled if the syllable is unstressed, e.g. gardener	gardening, gardener, limiting, limited, limitation
	 The short 'i' phoneme spelt y in the middle of words. 		myth, gym, Egypt, pyramid, mystery
	Prefixes in-, il-, im-, ir, re- sub-, inter- and auto	in- means both 'not' and 'in/into'.	incorrect, inactive
		Before a root starting with I , in- beomes iI .	illegal, illegible
		Before a root starting with m or p , in -becomes im -	immature, immortal, impossible, impatient, imperfect
		Before a root starting with r , in - becomes ir -	irregular, irrelevant, irresponsible
		re- means again or back	redo, refresh, return, reappear, redecorate
		sub- means under	submarine, subheading
	Courties les	auto- means self or own	autobiography, autograph, automatic
	• Suffix –Iy	Revise: the suffix –ly begins with a consonant, so usually it is added straight onto a root word. New: 3 rd exception (see year 3 for others):	completely, finally basically, frantically, dramatically
		(see year 3 for	dramatically

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	-ic, then add -ally rather than just -ly, (except in the word publicly.)	
 Words with ending -sion (hard sound – e.g. television) 		division, invasion, confusion, decision, collision, television
• Suffix –ous	Sometimes the root word is obvious, e.g. poisonous .	poisonous, dangerous, mountainous, famous, various
	Sometimes there is no obvious root word e.g. tremendous .	tremendous, enormous, jealous
	-our is changed to-or before adding-ousKeep the final e	humorous, glamorous, vigorous
	when using a soft g .	courageous, outrageous
	If there is a short i sound before the suffix -ous, it is	serious, obvious, curious
	usually spelt with an i, but a few words have e.	hideous, spontaneous, courteous
Words ending with –cian	-cian is used if the root word ends in c or cs. (Note how many of these words show professions.)	musician, electrician, magician, politician, mathematician
 Words with the k phoneme, spelt ch 		scheme, chorus, chemist, echo, character
 Words with the sh phoneme, but spelt ch 		chef, chalet, machine, brochure
 Words with the hard g phoneme, spelt gue 		league, colleague, catalogue
Other words spelt gue		tongue
 Words with the k phoneme, spelt que 	French in origin.	antique, unique, clique
 Revise possessive apostrophe for singular and plural words. 	Revise: when the owner is singular, the apostrophe is placed before the s.	Sarah's, Mr Black's
	Revise: when the	squirrels' tails;

		owner is plural, the apostrophe is placed after the s.	girls' toilet
	Possessive apostrophe for irregular plural words.	New: some owners are considered as a collective group, as if they were a single body. In this case, the apostrophe goes before the s, as with singular owners, e.g. children's.	children's, men's, women's, firemen's, policemen's, mice's
		Singular proper nouns ending in an s use the 's suffix, e.g. Cyprus's	Cyprus's, Chris's, James's (Can also be written Chris' or James' – not in POS)
	Further homophones or near-homophones	Continue to revise homophones from Year 3	accept/except, affect/effect, ball/bawl, medal/meddle, scene/seen,
Yrs 5 & 6	The new POS links Years 5 & 6		
110000	together. This guidance has split requirements into		
	suggested yearly coverage,		
	which should be adapted to suit pupil ability. Some pupils		
	in Year 5 will be able to access Year 6 work immediately.		
Year 5	Revise spellings from previous years. Assess children against the POS for Years 3&4 in order to ascertain starting points.		
	Statutory:		
	 Words ending with -cious or -tious 	If the root ends in –ce , then the –cious ending is common, e.g. <i>grace</i> – <i>gracious</i>	vicious, precious, conscious, delicious, malicious, suspicious, ambitious cautious, fictitious, infectious,
		Exception: anxious	nutritious
	Words ending with –cial and –tial	-cial is common after a vowel, and -tial after a consonant, but there are some exceptions.	official, special, artificial partial, confidential, essential
		Exceptions: initial, financial, commercial,	initial, commercial, provincial

	provincial	
 Words ending with –ant, -ance, -ancy, -ent, -ence, -ency 	Use -ant , -ance and -ancy if there is a related word with the long a phoneme (see words in column right).	observant, observance, (observation) expectant (expectation) hesitant, hesitancy (hesitation) tolerant, tolerance (toleration) substance (substantial)
	Use -ent, -ence and -ency after a soft c , soft g or qu	innocent, innocence, decent, decency, frequent, frequency, confident, confidence
	Exceptions: there are many words, however, where the above guidelines don't help. These words just have to be learnt. Pronouncing the words artificially, in the way they are spelt, can help children to remember.	assistant, assistance, obedient, obedience, independent, independence
Use of the hyphen	Hyphens can be used to join a prefix to a root, especially if the prefix ends in a vowel and the root also begins with one e.g. co-ordinate .	co-ordinate, re-enter, co- operate, co-own
Words with the long e (ee) phoneme, spelt ei after c	Common rule: 'i before e, except after c', where the sound is spelt by ei. However, there are Exceptions: protein, caffeine, seize, neither	deceive, conceive, receive, perceive, ceiling
Words containing ough	One of the trickiest spellings. Can be used to spell a number of sounds.	ought, bought, thought rough, tough, enough cough though, although, dough through thorough, borough plough

	Words with letters which are not sounded	Some 'silent' letters used to be sounded many years ago, e.g. k night	doubt, island, lamb, solemn, thistle, knight
	Further homophones or near-homophones	In these pairs of words, nouns end -ce and verbs end -se e.g. advice	advice/advise, device/devise practice/practise,
		(noun) but advise (verb)	aloud/allowed farther/further/father, guessed/guest, heard/herd, led/lead, past/passed cereal/serial steal/steel
		who's is a contraction of who is or who has; whose means belonging to someone	who's/whose
Year 6	Revision of Year 3, 4 and 5 objectives. Extend and develop to Year 6 coverage below, as appropriate.		
	Statutory: • Words ending in -able and -ible; -ably and -ibly	-able and -ably endings are far more common than -ible/-ibly.	adorable/adorably applicable/applicably considerable/considerably tolerable/tolerably
		-ible is common if a complete root cannot be heard Exception: sensible	possible, horrible, terrible, visible, incredible
		When adding -able to a word ending with -ce or -ge , keep the e .	change/changeable notice/noticeable (but force/forcible and legible)
		-able is common if a complete root <i>can</i> be heard before it, e.g. depend dependable	dependable, comfortable, understandable, reasonable, enjoyable, reliable
		(Not in POS) Some words can be spelt two ways, e.g. loveable, lovable	
		Double the r if the	referring, referred, referral,

 Adding suffixes to words ending with –fer 	-fer is still stressed when the ending is added.	preferring, preferred, transferring, transferred
	Do not double the r if the -fer is no longer stressed.	reference, referee, preference, transference
Further use of the hyphen (not part of statutory POS)	Use a hyphen with compound adjectives, to show that they are not a list of separate adjectives, e.g. littleused car, rather than little, used car.	little-used, square-based, blue-eyed, bad-tempered
 Further homophones and near-homophones 	In these pairs of words, nouns end —ce and verbs end —se e.g. advice (noun) but advise (verb)	licence/license, prophecy/prophesy (See Yr 5 for more.)
		aisle/isle altar/alter ascent/assent bridal/bridle morning/mourning wary/weary profit/prophet
	affect: usually a verb e.g. The weather may affect our plans. effect: usually a noun e.g. It may have an effect on our plans.	affect/effect
	principle: basic truth or belief principal: adjective – most important noun – important person, such as principal of a college	principle, principal
	stationary: not moving stationery: paper etc	stationary, stationery

In Years 3 to 6, see also the Word List for Years 3 and 4, and the Word List for Years 5 and 6 in Appendix 1 of the new Programme of Study.

Kent Cross-Phase Literacy Consultants

September 2013