English Writing Curriculum Progression Table 2026-2027

Strand	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Composition	Labels, captions, posters, informal letters, commands, how-to guides, retellings and simple narratives.	Wanted posters, letters, retellings, reports, instructions, poems, postcards, summaries and own-version stories.	Persuasive posters, reports, brochures, newspaper reports, letters, diary entries, discussion, instructions and own-version narratives.	Detective notes, posters, letters, action scenes, poetry, explanation texts, reports, book reviews, tourist guides, news bulletins, menus and narratives.	Biographies, reports, formal and informal letters, speeches, interviews, diary entries, opinion pieces, newspaper reports, descriptions, fairy tales, fantasy narratives and prequels.	Instructions, posters, missing scenes, diaries, newspaper reports, debates, guidebooks, descriptions, letters of advice, analytical essays, discussion texts, news reports, protest banners, speeches, newspaper letters, viewpoints and traditional tales.
Grammar	Simple sentence structures, nouns, verbs, adjectives and	Present and past tense, progressive form, expanded noun phrases and	Present perfect, fronted adverbials, possessive apostrophes for	Paragraphs, direct speech, fronted adverbials, pronouns for cohesion and	Passive voice, relative clauses, modal verbs, subjunctive forms, brackets, dashes, colons	Passive voice, perfect forms, relative clauses, modal verbs, subjunctive forms, commas for clarity,

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	basic word order.	subordinating conjunctions.	plurals and direct speech.	possessive apostrophes.	and semi-colons.	colons, semi-colons, dashes and hyphens.
Punctuation	Capital letters, full stops, question marks, exclamation marks and capital letters for names and **I**.	Full stops, capital letters, question marks, exclamation marks, commas in lists and apostrophes for contraction and possession.	Inverted commas for direct speech and commas after fronted adverbials.	Inverted commas accurately, commas after fronted adverbials and apostrophes for plural possession.	Commas to clarify meaning, brackets, dashes, colons and semi-colons, plus accurate direct speech punctuation.	Inverted commas, commas, brackets, dashes, colons, semi-colons, bullet points and punctuation within lists.
Spelling / Transcription	Spaces between words and correct letter formation. Phonics, common exception words and simple suffixes	Spelling rules, suffixes, prefixes, common exception words and contracted forms. Prefixes, suffixes, homophones, contracted forms, plural	Dictionaries, joined handwriting, common homophones and accurate suffixes/prefixes. Prefixes and suffixes, dictionary use, statutory word	Dictionaries, statutory word list spelling and common misspelt words. Prefixes and suffixes such as **-ous** and **-ation**, misspelt words and	Morphology, etymology, dictionaries, thesaurus and more complex spellings. Prefixes and suffixes, morphology and etymology,	Dictionaries, thesaurus, morphology and etymology, first three or four letters for dictionary use, and specific memorisation of spellings. Further prefixes and

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	such as **-ing, -ed, -er, -est**.	markers and singular possessive apostrophe.	list, misspelt words and apostrophes.	statutory word list spelling.	silent letters, homophones and UK spellings.	suffixes, morphology and etymology, words needing specific memorisation and spelling using dictionary skills.
Vocabulary / Cohesion / Register	Simple descriptive vocabulary and basic noun phrases. Familiar audience, simple and direct language.	Expanded noun phrases and adverbs. Adapts writing for simple purposes such as persuasion and information.	Ambitious vocabulary, time and cause conjunctions, and noun phrases with modifiers. Different purposes and more deliberate tone.	Topic-specific vocabulary, expanded noun phrases and varied adverbials. Formal and informal purposes across a wider range of audiences.	Formal vocabulary, synonyms, antonyms and precise subject-specific language. Precise control of formal and informal register.	Careful vocabulary choice for formal writing, analytical responses and persuasive effect. Confident adaptation of register, including formal speech and writing, analytical response and persuasive argument.

Year-by-Year Summary

Year group	Summary
Year 1	Secure sentence formation, basic punctuation, simple sequencing and early narrative writing.
Year 2	Greater control of sentence expansion, expanded noun phrases, simple cohesion and a wider range of genres.
Year 3	Paragraphing, fronted adverbials, direct speech, present perfect and more ambitious composition.
Year 4	Secure organisation, direct speech, varied sentence structures, fronted adverbials and formal grammar knowledge.
Year 5	Sophisticated sentence control, formal writing, cohesion across paragraphs, complex punctuation and precise vocabulary.
Year 6	Mastery of formal and informal register, analytical and argumentative writing, sophisticated cohesion and precise grammatical control.