



Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Read Write Inc. Spelling for?

- **Read Write Inc. Spelling** is a teacher-directed programme for children in Year 2 and above who have completed **Read Write Inc. Phonics** (the Spelling programme can be taught alongside the Phonics programme from Grey level) or for those who are already reading at the equivalent of NC Level 2A or above. In Year 2, the estimated total time for the essential content is 34 weeks, assuming daily 15–20 minute teaching sessions. There is a lot of content in this year because we have matched the programme to the new National Curriculum requirements in Year 2, which are detailed and challenging. In Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 the estimated total time for the essential content is 16 weeks for each year, assuming daily 15–20 minute teaching sessions. There is also additional revision work, including team tests. *See Handbook p.14 for more detail about timetables.*

How are children assessed for entry to the programme?

- The programme is intended to be taught in year groups with children starting the programme in Year 2 (provided that they are already fluent readers). This matches the expectation of the National Curriculum in England that spelling concepts will be taught in a particular sequence from Year 2 onwards.
- Pre-programme activities assess children's knowledge of phonics and Year 1 spelling knowledge (listed in the new National Curriculum in England), to ensure that they are ready to start the programme. The pre-programme activities are in Practice Book 2A (pp.2–5; there is also a copy of these online for late starters in other years). Activities 1–4 assess and refresh children's phonic knowledge and Activity 5 is a quick check of key concepts from the Year 1 curriculum content. In the online resource there are eight pre-programme special focus pages which introduce and consolidate key concepts from the Year 1 curriculum (i.e. adding the prefix un- and syllables). You can find these in the Year 1 section of the online resource. *See 'Instructions for starting Read Write Inc. Spelling at Year 2' for an illustration of how to assess children starting the programme.*
- *There is more information about assessment for placement of later starters in the 'Read Write Inc. Spelling grouping and transition' document.*

How are children assessed during the programme?

- **Practice Tests (6 per year for Years 2, 3, 4 and 5; 2 for Year 1; 6 plus an extra 6 challenge tests for Year 6) assess children's spelling progress using the same format as the statutory assessments in England.**
- Tracking spreadsheets (online) enable you to record and track individual children's progress and identify units or concepts you will need to re-teach. The trackers list every word from the test and which unit the word is taken from, so that you can see which units you might need to revisit or which consolidation session you should complete.
- Assessment is built into the activities for every unit: *Speed spell* tests children's knowledge of words from previous units; *Team teach* and *Four-in-a-row* help children assess their own progress; *Jumping red/orange words* tests children's knowledge of red and orange words (words from the word lists in the National Curriculum in England). The tests are presented as fun games and activities so children are motivated rather than intimidated.
- *There is more information about assessment for placement of later starters in the 'Read Write Inc. Spelling grouping and transition' document. (You will need to use the End of Year Practice Tests for this.)*

How do we ensure all children make progress? (differentiation)

- The programme has been designed to be taught in year groups. However, larger schools often choose to organise children into progress groups, using the flexible timetable

options.

- Group and team activities can be tailored to the needs of the children. In activities such as *Team teach*, the teacher can select words for each group that they think children particularly need to practise.
- In several activities (*Words to log and learn*, *Four-in-a-row*, *Jumping red/orange words*) children focus on the words they personally need to practise so the teacher can encourage them to choose words appropriate to their learning needs.
- The expectations of the new National Curriculum in England are extremely high – especially in the younger years. Children are introduced to spelling rules and patterns from the start of the programme. These are reviewed and practised through each unit until all children can apply the rules in their own writing.
- The Year 6 Practice tests include six *Challenge tests*, designed to stretch higher ability children.
- For children who need more support at the start of the programme, two Year 1 Practice tests are provided for consolidation and assessment.
- Consolidation sessions (online) can be used with the whole class or with smaller groups to give extra support to those children who need it.
- Challenge dictation sentences (online) are available online for fast finishers. In Practice Books 3–6 there are *Dictionary challenges* which can be completed by fast finishers. In Practice Books 5 and 6 there are also *Thesaurus challenges*.

Does Read Write Inc. Spelling contain a full year's teaching for each year?

- The new National Curriculum requirements for Year 2 are tightly packed so we have divided the programme into Year 2A and Year 2B. The total estimated teaching time for Year 2 is 34 weeks. Five weeks of further core consolidation and practice material is also available.
- The National Curriculum for spelling in Years 3–6 has less content requirement: Read Write Inc. Spelling takes 16 weeks per year, with around two to six weeks of extra core consolidation and practice. This includes practising extra-challenging words in the National Curriculum word lists (*see Handbook p.30*) and an optional week-long team Spelling Challenge at the end of every half term to consolidate spellings and celebrate progress (*see Handbook p.25*).
- These timings are based upon Spelling lessons taking place every day for 15–20 minutes. However, you have flexibility to teach:
 - Spelling for three/ four days per week
 - Spelling for 10 minutes a day and take more days per unit
 - Spelling at steadier pace and take more days per unit
 - More than one year's Spelling work in a teaching year, whilst the curriculum is in transition.

What happens if I have a late starter in the class?

- Assess any new child before starting this programme. Children who have not attained National curriculum expectations for reading in Year 1 will need to join *Read Write Inc.* reading groups.

How is spelling taught in Year 1?

- Most of the Year 1 spelling curriculum is taught in *Read Write Inc. Phonics*. Curriculum matching charts are available on the Oxford Primary website (see link below).
- Pre-programme activities in *Read Write Inc. Spelling* assess and review children's phonic knowledge (provided in both Practice Book 2A and online).
- Special Focus pages for Year 1 (online) teach the few spelling concepts not taught in *Read Write Inc. Phonics*. (e.g. the prefix un-)

Does the programme match the National Curriculum in England?

- Curriculum matching charts can be found here:

Year 1

http://fdslive.oup.com/www.oup.com/oxed/primary/literacy/rwi/rwi_eng_nc_y1_text.pdf

Year 2

http://fdslive.oup.com/www.oup.com/oxed/primary/literacy/rwi/rwi_eng_nc_y2_text.pdf

Years 3-4

http://fdslive.oup.com/www.oup.com/oxed/primary/literacy/rwi/rwi_eng_nc_y3_y4_text.pdf

Years 5-6

http://fdslive.oup.com/www.oup.com/oxed/primary/literacy/rwi/rwi_eng_nc_y5_y6_text.pdf

How does the programme match the Curriculum for Excellence?

- Curriculum matching charts can be found here:

http://fdslive.oup.com/www.oup.com/oxed/primary/literacy/rwi/rwi_spelling_curriculum_scotland.pdf

How does the programme match the Northern Ireland Curriculum?

- Curriculum matching charts can be found here:

http://fdslive.oup.com/www.oup.com/oxed/primary/literacy/rwi/rwi_spelling_curriculum_ni.pdf

How does the programme match the Literacy and Numeracy Framework and the Curriculum in Wales?

- Curriculum matching charts can be found here:

http://fdslive.oup.com/www.oup.com/oxed/primary/literacy/rwi/rwi_spelling_curriculum_wales.pdf

