



St Mary's Catholic Primary School Writing Skills Progression Map



Year Group	Text Structure	Word Structure / Language	Punctuation*	Terminology*
EYFS	Introduce: Planning Tool –Story map /story mountain Whole class retelling of story Understanding of beginning/ middle / end Retell simple 5-part story: <i>Once upon a time</i> <i>First / Then / Next</i> <i>But</i> <i>So</i> <i>Finally,.....happily ever after</i> Non-fiction: Factual writing closely linked to a story Simple factual sentences based around a theme Names Labels Captions Lists Diagrams Message	Introduce: Simple sentences Simple Connectives: <i>and</i> <i>who</i> <i>until</i> <i>but</i> Say a sentence, write and read it back to check it makes sense. Compound sentences using connectives (coordinating conjunctions) <i>and / but</i> -'ly' openers <i>Luckily / Unfortunately,</i> 'Run' - Repetition for rhythm: e.g. <i>He walked and he walked</i> Repetition in description e.g. <i>a lean cat, a mean cat</i>	Introduce: Determiners <i>the / a</i> <i>my</i> <i>your</i> <i>an</i> <i>this</i> <i>that</i> <i>his</i> <i>her</i> <i>their</i> <i>some</i> <i>all</i> Prepositions: <i>up</i> <i>down</i> <i>in</i> <i>into</i> <i>out</i> <i>to</i> <i>onto</i> Adjectives e.g. <i>old, little, big, small, quiet</i> Adverbs e.g. <i>luckily, unfortunately, fortunately</i> Similes – using 'like'	Introduce: Finger spaces Full stops Capital letters
Year 1	Consolidate Reception list Introduce: Fiction: Planning Tools: Story map / story mountain (Refer to Story-Type grids)	Consolidate Reception list (See Connectives and Sentence Signposts doc.) Introduce: Types of sentences: Statements Questions Exclamations	Consolidate Reception list Introduce: Prepositions: <i>inside</i> <i>outside</i> <i>towards</i> <i>across</i> <i>under</i>	Consolidate Reception list Introduce: Capital Letters: Capital letter for names Capital letter for the personal pronoun I

	Plan opening around character(s), setting, time of day and type of weather Understanding - beginning /middle /end to a story Understanding - 5 parts to a story: Opening <i>Once upon a time...</i> Build-up <i>One day...</i> Problem / Dilemma <i>Suddenly,.. / Unfortunately,...</i> Resolution <i>Fortunately,...</i> Ending <i>Finally,....</i> Non-fiction: Planning tools: text map / washing line Heading Introduction Opening factual statement Middle section(s) Simple factual sentences around a <i>them</i> Bullet points for instructions Labelled diagrams Ending Concluding sentence	Simple Connectives: <i>and</i> <i>or</i> <i>but</i> <i>so</i> <i>because</i> <i>so that</i> <i>then</i> <i>that</i> <i>while</i> <i>when</i> <i>where</i> Also as openers: <i>While...</i> <i>When...</i> <i>Where...</i> -‘ly’ openers <i>Fortunately,...Unfortunately, Sadly,...</i> Simple sentences e.g. <i>I went to the park.</i> <i>The castle is haunted.</i> Embellished simple sentences using adjectives e.g. <i>The giant had an enormous beard.</i> <i>Red squirrels enjoy eating delicious nuts.</i> Compound sentences using connectives (coordinating conjunctions) and/or/ but/so e.g. <i>The children played on the swings and slid down the slide.</i> <i>Spiders can be small or they can be large.</i> <i>Charlie hid but Sally found him.</i> <i>It was raining so they put on their coats.</i> Complex sentences: Use of ‘who’ (relative clause) e.g. <i>Once upon a time there was a little old woman who lived in a forest.</i> <i>There are many children who like to eat ice cream.</i> ‘Run’ - Repetition for rhythm e.g. <i>He walked and he walked and he walked.</i> Repetition for description	Determiners: <i>the a my your an this that his her their some all lots of many more those these</i> Adjectives to describe e.g. <i>The old house...</i> <i>The huge elephant...</i> Alliteration e.g. <i>dangerous dragon</i> <i>slimy snake</i> Similes using as.....as... e.g. <i>as tall as a house</i> <i>as red as a radish</i> Precise, clear language to give information e.g. <i>First, switch on the red button.</i> <i>Next, wait for the green light to flash...</i> Regular plural noun suffixes –s or –es (e.g. dog, dogs; wish, wishes) Suffixes that can be added to verbs (e.g. helping, helped, helper) How the prefix un– changes the meaning of verbs and adjectives (negation, e.g. unkind, or undoing, e.g. untie the boat)	Full stops Question marks Exclamation marks Speech bubble Bullet points
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		e.g. <i>a lean cat, a mean cat</i> <i>a green dragon, a fiery dragon</i>		
Year 2	Consolidate Year 1 list Introduce: Fiction Secure use of planning tools: Story map / story mountain / story grids/ 'Boxing-up' grid (Refer to Story Types grids) Plan opening around character(s), setting, time of day and type of weather Understanding 5 parts to a story with more complex vocabulary Opening e.g. <i>In a land far away....</i> <i>One cold but bright morning.....</i> Build-up e.g. <i>Later that day</i> Problem / Dilemma e.g. <i>To his amazement</i> Resolution e.g. <i>As soon as</i> Ending e.g. <i>Luckily, Fortunately,</i> Ending should be a section rather than one final sentence e.g. suggest how the main character is feeling in the final situation. Non-Fiction Introduce: Secure use of planning tools: Text map / washing line / 'Boxing-up' grid Introduction: Heading Hook to engage reader Factual statement / definition Opening question	Consolidate Year 1 list Introduce: (See Connectives and Sentence Signposts doc.) Types of sentences: Statements Questions Exclamations Commands -‘ly’ starters e.g. <i>Usually, Eventually, Finally, Carefully, Slowly, ...</i> Vary openers to sentences Embellished simple sentences using: adjectives e.g. <i>The boys peeped inside the dark cave.</i> adverbs e.g. <i>Tom ran quickly down the hill.</i> Secure use of compound sentences (Coordination) using connectives: <i>and/ or / but / so</i> (coordinating conjunctions) Complex sentences (Subordination) using: Drop in a relative clause: who/which e.g. Sam, who was lost, sat down and cried. The Vikings, who came from Scandinavia, invaded Scotland. The Fire of London, which started in Pudding Lane, spread quickly.	Consolidate Year 1 list Introduce: Prepositions: <i>behind above along before between after</i> Alliteration e.g. <i>wicked witch</i> <i>slimy slugs</i> Similes using...like... e.g. <i>... like sizzling sausages</i> <i>...hot like a fire</i> Two adjectives to describe the noun e.g. <i>The scary, old woman...</i> <i>Squirrels have long, bushy tails.</i> Adverbs for description e.g. <i>Snow fell gently and covered the cottage in the wood.</i> Adverbs for information e.g. Lift the pot carefully onto the tray. The river quickly flooded the town. Generalisers for information, e.g. Most dogs.... Some cats.... Formation of nouns using suffixes such as -ness, -er	Consolidate Year 1 list Introduce: Demarcate sentences: Capital letters Full stops Question marks Exclamation marks Commas to separate items in a list Comma after -ly opener e.g. <i>Fortunately,....Slowly,....</i> Speech bubbles /speech marks for direct speech Implicitly understand how to change from indirect speech to direct speech Apostrophes to mark contracted forms in spelling e.g. <i>don't, can't</i> Apostrophes to mark singular possession e.g. <i>the cat's name</i>

	Middle section(s) Group related ideas / facts into sections Sub headings to introduce sentences /sections Use of lists – what is needed / lists of steps to be taken Bullet points for facts Diagrams Ending Make final comment to reader Extra tips! / Did-you-know? facts / True or false? The consistent use of present tense versus past tense throughout texts Use of the continuous form of verbs in the present and past tense to mark actions in progress (e.g. <i>she is drumming, he was shouting</i>)	Additional subordinating conjunctions: <i>what/while/when/where/ because/ then/so that/ if/to/until</i> e.g. <i>While the animals were munching breakfast, two visitors arrived</i> <i>During the Autumn, when the weather is cold, the leaves fall off the trees.</i> Use long and short sentences: Long sentences to add description or information. Use short sentences for emphasis. Expanded noun phrases e.g. <i>lots of people, plenty of food</i> List of 3 for description e.g. <i>He wore old shoes, a dark cloak and a red hat.</i> <i>African elephants have long trunks, curly tusks and large ears.</i>	Formation of adjectives using suffixes such as –ful, –less (A fuller list of suffixes can be found in the spelling appendix.) Use of the suffixes –er and –est to form comparisons of adjectives and adverbs	
Year 3	Consolidate Year 2 list Introduce: Fiction Secure use of planning tools: Story map /story mountain / story grids / ‘Boxing-up’ grid (Refer to Story-Type grids) Plan opening around character(s), setting, time of day and type of weather Paragraphs to organise ideas into each story part Extended vocabulary to introduce 5 story parts: Introduction –should include detailed description of setting or characters Build-up –build in some suspense towards the problem or dilemma Problem / Dilemma –include detail of actions / dialogue Resolution - should link with the problem Ending – clear ending should link back to the start,	Consolidate Year 2 list Introduce: Vary long and short sentences: Long sentences to add description or information. Short sentences for emphasis and making key points e.g. <i>Sam was really unhappy.</i> <i>Visit the farm now.</i> Embellished simple sentences: Adverb starters to add detail e.g. <i>Carefully, she crawled along the floor of the cave....</i> Amazingly, small insects can.... Adverbial phrases used as a ‘where’, ‘when’ or ‘how’ starter (fronted adverbials) <i>A few days ago, we discovered a hidden box.</i> <i>At the back of the eye, is the retina.</i> <i>In a strange way, he looked at me.</i>	Consolidate Year 2 list Introduce: Prepositions <i>Next to by the side of</i> <i>In front of during through throughout because of</i> Powerful verbs e.g. <i>stare, tremble, slither</i> Boastful Language e.g. <i>magnificent, unbelievable, exciting!</i> More specific / technical vocabulary to add detail e.g. <i>A few dragons of this variety can breathe on any creature and turn</i>	Consolidate Year 2 list Introduce: Colon before a list e.g. <i>What you need:</i> Ellipses to keep the reader hanging on Secure use of inverted commas for direct speech Use of commas after fronted adverbials (e.g. <i>Later that day, I heard the bad news.</i>)

show how the character is feeling, how the character or situation has changed from the beginning. Non-Fiction Introduce: Secure use of planning tools: e.g. Text map, washing line, 'Boxing –up' grid, story grids Paragraphs to organise ideas around a theme Introduction Develop hook to introduce and tempt reader in e.g. <i>Who....? What....? Where....?</i> <i>Why....? When....? How....?</i> Middle Section(s) Group related ideas /facts into paragraphs Sub headings to introduce sections / paragraphs Topic sentences to introduce paragraphs Lists of steps to be taken Bullet points for facts Flow diagram Develop Ending Personal response Extra information / reminders e.g. Information boxes/ Five Amazing Facts Wow comment Use of the perfect form of verbs to mark relationships of time and cause e.g. I have written it down so I can check what it said. Use of present perfect instead of simple past. He has left his hat behind, as opposed to He left his hat behind.	Prepositional phrases to place the action: on the mat; behind the tree, in the air Compound sentences (Coordination) using connectives: and/ or / but / so / for /nor / yet (coordinating conjunctions) Develop complex sentences (Subordination) with range of subordinating conjunctions (See Connectives and Sentence Signposts doc.) -‘ing’ clauses as starters e.g. <i>Sighing, the boy finished his homework.</i> <i>Grunting, the pig lay down to sleep.</i> Drop in a relative clause using: who/whom/which/whose/that e.g. <i>The girl, whom I remember, had long black hair.</i> <i>The boy, whose name is George, thinks he is very brave.</i> <i>The Clifton Suspension bridge, which was finished in 1864, is a popular tourist attraction.</i> Sentence of 3 for description e.g. <i>The cottage was almost invisible, hiding under a thick layer of snow and glistening in the sunlight.</i> <i>Rainbow dragons are covered with many different coloured scales, have enormous, red eyes and swim on the surface of the water.</i> Pattern of 3 for persuasion e.g. <i>Visit, Swim, Enjoy!</i> Topic sentences to introduce non-fiction paragraphs e.g. <i>Dragons are found across the world.</i> Dialogue –powerful speech verb e.g. <i>“Hello,” she whispered.</i>	<i>it to stone immediately.</i> <i>Drops of rain pounded on the corrugated, tin roof.</i> Nouns formed from prefixes e.g. <i>auto... super...anti...</i> Word Families based on common words e.g. <i>teacher –teach, beauty – beautiful</i> Use of determiners a or an according to whether next word begins with a vowel e.g. <i>a rock, an open box</i>
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Year 4	Consolidate Year 3 list Introduce: Secure use of planning tools: e.g. story map /story mountain /story grids /'Boxing-up' grids (Refer to Story Types grids) Plan opening using: Description /action Paragraphs: to organise each part of story to indicate a change in place or jump in time Build in suspense writing to introduce the dilemma Developed 5 parts to story Introduction Build-up Problem / Dilemma Resolution Ending Clear distinction between resolution and ending. Ending should include reflection on events or the characters. Non-Fiction Secure use of planning tools: Text map/ washing line/ 'Boxing-up' grid Paragraphs to organise ideas around a theme Logical organisation Group related paragraphs Develop use of a topic sentence Link information within paragraphs with a range of connectives. Use of bullet points, diagrams Introduction Middle section(s) Ending Ending could Include personal opinion, response, extra information, reminders, question, warning, encouragement to the reader Appropriate choice of pronoun or noun across sentences to aid cohesion	Consolidate Year 3 list Introduce: Standard English for verb inflections instead of local spoken forms Long and short sentences: Long sentences to enhance description or information Short sentences to move events on quickly e.g. <i>It was midnight.</i> <i>It's great fun.</i> Start with a simile e.g. <i>As curved as a ball, the moon shone brightly in the night sky.</i> <i>Like a wailing cat, the ambulance screamed down the road.</i> Secure use of simple / embellished simple sentences Secure use of compound sentences (Coordination) using coordinating conjunction <i>and / or / but / so / for / nor / yet</i> (coordinating conjunctions) Develop complex sentences: (Subordination) Main and subordinate clauses with range of subordinating conjunctions. (See Connectives and Sentence Signposts doc.) -‘ed’ clauses as starters e.g. <i>Frightened, Tom ran straight home to avoid being caught.</i> <i>Exhausted, the Roman soldier collapsed at his post.</i> Expanded -‘ing’ clauses as starters e.g. <i>Grimacing menacingly, he slipped the treasure</i>	Consolidate Year 3 list Introduce: Prepositions <i>at underneath since towards beneath beyond</i> Conditionals - <i>could, should, would</i> Comparative and superlative adjectives e.g. <i>small...smaller...smallest good...better...best</i> Proper nouns-refers to a particular person or thing e.g. <i>Monday, Jessica, October, England</i> The grammatical difference between plural and possessive—s Standard English forms for verb inflections instead of local spoken forms (e.g. <i>we were instead of we was, or I did instead of I done</i>)	Consolidate Year 3 list Introduce: Commas to mark clauses and to mark off fronted adverbials Full punctuation for direct speech: Each new speaker on a new line Comma between direct speech and reporting clause e.g. <i>"It's late," gasped Cinderella!</i> Apostrophes to mark singular and plural possession (e.g. <i>the girl's name, the boys' boots</i>) as opposed to s to mark a plural
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		into his rucksack. Hopping speedily towards the pool, the frog dived underneath the leaves. Drop in –'ing' clause e.g. Jane, laughing at the teacher, fell off her chair. The tornado, sweeping across the city, destroyed the houses. Sentence of 3 for action e.g. Sam rushed down the road, jumped on the bus and sank into his seat. The Romans enjoyed food, loved marching but hated the weather. Repetition to persuade e.g. Find us to find the fun Dialogue - verb + adverb - "Hello," she whispered, shyly. Appropriate choice of pronoun or noun within a sentence to avoid ambiguity and repetition		
Year 5	Consolidate Year 4 list Introduce: Secure independent use of planning tools Story mountain / grids / flow diagrams (Refer to Story Types grids) Plan opening using: Description / action / dialogue Paragraphs: Vary connectives within paragraphs to build cohesion into a paragraph Use change of place, time and action to link ideas across paragraphs. Use 5 part story structure Writing could start at any of the 5 points.	Consolidate Year 4 list Introduce: Relative clauses beginning with who, which, that, where, when, whose or an omitted relative pronoun. Secure use of simple / embellished simple sentences Secure use of compound sentences Develop complex sentences: (Subordination) Main and subordinate clauses with full range of conjunctions: (See Connectives and Sentence Signposts doc.)	Consolidate Year 4 list Introduce: Metaphor Personification Onomatopoeia Empty words e.g. <i>someone, somewhere</i> <i>was out to get him</i> Developed use of technical language Converting nouns or	Consolidate Year 4 list Introduce: Rhetorical question Dashes Brackets/dashes/commas for parenthesis Colons Use of commas to clarify meaning or avoid ambiguity

	This may include flashbacks Introduction –should include action / description -character or setting / dialogue Build-up –develop suspense techniques Problem / Dilemma –may be more than one problem to be resolved Resolution –clear links with dilemma Ending –character could reflect on events, any changes or lessons, look forward to the future ask a question. Non-Fiction Introduce: Independent planning across all genres and application Secure use of range of layouts suitable to text. Structure: Introduction / Middle / Ending Secure use of paragraphs: Use a variety of ways to open texts and draw reader in and make the purpose clear Link ideas within and across paragraphs using a full range of connectives and signposts Use rhetorical questions to draw reader in Express own opinions clearly Consistently maintain viewpoint Summary clear at the end to appeal directly to the reader	Expanded –ed clauses as starters e.g. <i>Encouraged by the bright weather, Jane set out for a long walk.</i> <i>Terrified by the dragon, George fell to his knees.</i> Elaboration of starters using adverbial phrases e.g. <i>Beyond the dark gloom of the cave, Zach saw the wizard move.</i> <i>Throughout the night, the wind howled like an injured creature.</i> Drop in –‘ed’ clause e.g. <i>Poor Tim, exhausted by so much effort, ran home.</i> <i>The lesser known Bristol dragon, recognised by purple spots, is rarely seen.</i> Sentence reshaping techniques e.g. lengthening or shortening sentence for meaning and /or effect Moving sentence chunks (how, when, where) around for different effects e.g. <i>The siren echoed loudlythrough the lonely streetsat midnight</i> Use of rhetorical questions Stage directions in speech (speech + verb + action) e.g. <i>“Stop!” he shouted, picking up the stick and running after the thief.</i> Indicating degrees of possibility using	adjectives into verbs using suffixes (e.g. –ate; –ise; –ify) Verb prefixes (e.g. dis–, de–, mis–, over– and re–)	
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		modal verbs (e.g. might, should, will, must) or adverbs (perhaps, surely)		
Year 6	Consolidate Year 5 list Secure independent planning across story types using 5 part story structure. Include suspense, cliff hangers, flashbacks/forwards, time slips Start story at any point of the 5 part structure Maintain plot consistently working from plan Paragraphs -Secure use of linking ideas within and across paragraphs Secure development of characterisation Non-fiction: Secure planning across non-fiction genres and application Use a variety of text layouts appropriate to purpose Use range of techniques to involve the reader – comments, questions, observations, rhetorical questions Express balanced coverage of a topic Use different techniques to conclude texts Use appropriate formal and informal styles of writing Choose or create publishing format to enhance text type and engage the reader Linking ideas across paragraphs using a wider range of cohesive devices: semantic cohesion (e.g. repetition of a word or phrase),	Consolidate Year 5 list Secure use of simple / embellished simple sentences Secure use of compound sentences Secure use of complex sentences: (Subordination) Main and subordinate clauses with full range of conjunctions: Active and passive verbs to create effect and to affect presentation of information e.g. Active: <i>Tom accidentally dropped the glass.</i> Passive: <i>The glass was accidentally dropped by Tom.</i> Active: <i>The class heated the water.</i> Passive: <i>The water was heated.</i> Developed use of rhetorical questions for persuasion Expanded noun phrases to convey complicated information concisely (e.g. <i>the boy that jumped over the fence is over there, or the fact that it was raining meant the end of sports day</i>) The difference between structures typical of informal speech and structures appropriate for formal speech and writing (such as the use of question tags, e.g. <i>He's your friend, isn't he?</i>, or the use of the subjunctive in some very formal writing and speech) as in <i>If I were you.</i>	Consolidate Year 5 list Build in literary feature to create effects e.g. alliteration, onomatopoeia, similes, metaphors The difference between vocabulary typical of informal speech and vocabulary appropriate for formal speech and writing (e.g. <i>said versus reported, alleged, or claimed in formal speech or writing</i>) How words are related as synonyms and antonyms e.g. <i>big/ large / little</i>	Consolidate Year 5 list Use of the semi-colon, colon and dash to indicate a stronger subdivision of a sentence than a comma. Use of colon to introduce a list and semi-colons within lists. Punctuation of bullet points to list information. How hyphens can be used to avoid ambiguity (e.g. <i>man eating shark versus man-eating shark, or recover versus re-cover</i>)

	grammatical connections (e.g. the use of adverbials such as on the other hand, in contrast, or as a consequence), and elision Layout devices, such as headings, sub-headings, columns, bullets, or tables, to structure text			
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