# Writing moderation guide

YEARS 2 AND 6 - END OF KEY STAGES 1 AND 2





Moderation is a crucial part of teacher assessment. It allows teachers to benchmark their judgements, while helping to ensure that standards are consistent, and outcomes are reliable.

Schools should ensure that their teacher assessment judgements are moderated internally and, where possible, with other schools. This will quality-assure their judgements and provide a valuable opportunity for professional development.

Every year, 25 per cent of schools are also subject to statutory external moderation by local authorities of a sample of their outcomes English writing. This validates judgements to ensure that they are consistent with national standards. It is a collaborative process between schools and local authority moderators.

This book, Writing Moderation Guide for Years 2 and 6, provides support for teachers of these year groups and also to English and assessment leaders in primary schools. The focus is on pupils' writing and the assessment of writing.

It supports teachers' judgements through a clear focus on the National Curriculum requirements and differentiates between writing that is not yet at expected standards for a year group, writing that meets end of year expected standards and writing at greater depth within the expected standards for a year group.

The following assessment areas are considered:

- Composition and effect
- Structure and organisation
- Grammar, sentence structure and vocabulary
- Punctuation
- Drafting, editing and proof reading
- Spelling and handwriting

The documents can be used as a guide or printed for each child, to show evidence of standards in writing or for moderation purposes.

	Working towards national standard	Working at the national standard	Working at greater depth within national standard
Year 2	Overall, the effectiveness and accuracy of writing is inconsistent based on the end of year expectations.	Overall, the Year 2 learning is applied affectively, accurately and independently and written texts demonstrate increasing stamina for writing.	Overall, all writing demonstrates an awareness of the reader with accurate and effective use of grammar and vocabulary. Writing is engaging and maintains the reader's interest.
Year 6	Overall, pupils' writing may lack consistency. It may demonstrate some of the features of the expected standard, but there will be insufficient control, some basic errors in accuracy and inconsistencies in application.	Overall, pupils' writing will be accurate and effective. Features of the expected standard will be controlled and used purposefully and accurately. Written texts will be well-crafted and engaging.	Overall, writing is independent, and all elements of the Year 6 curriculum are consistently and effectively applied appropriately to produce engaging, sustained and well-crafted texts.

		YEAR 2 – EXEMPLIFICATION STATEMENTS				
Working towards national standard	Working at the national standard	Working at greater depth within national standard				
	Working at the national standard  The pupil can, after discussion with the teacher:  write simple, coherent narratives about personal experiences and those of others (real or fictional)  write about real events, recording these simply and clearly  demarcate most sentences in their writing with capital letters and full stops, and use question marks correctly when required  use present and past tense mostly correctly and consistently  use co-ordination (e.g. or/and/but) and some subordination (eg. when/if/that/because) to join clauses  segment spoken words into phonemes and represent these by graphemes, spelling many of these words correctly and making phonically plausible attempts at others  spell many common exception words  form capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one	Working at greater depth within national standard  The pupil can, after discussion with the teacher:  write effectively and coherently for different purposes, drawing on their reading to inform the vocabulary and grammar of their writing  make simple additions, revisions and proof-reading corrections to their own writing  use the punctuation taught at Key Stage 1 mostly correctly  spell most common exception words  add suffixes to spell most words correctly in their writing (eg. –ment, –ness, –ful, –less, –ly)  use the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join some letters				
	<ul> <li>another and to lower-case letters</li> <li>use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters</li> </ul>					

## **YEAR 2 - COMPOSITION AND EFFECT** Working at greater depth within national standard Working towards national standard Working at the national standard Narratives are simple with an opening, a In narrative writing, there is a clear sequence Narrative writing is undertaken middle and an end of events in chronological order independently Narrative texts are clearly structured and Endings are often very brief and may not Language patterns from familiar stories may sequenced with an opening, more developed relate effectively to the rest of the text be incorporated effectively into narrative events in sections and a rounded ending In non-narrative, features of the chosen text In narrative texts, the ending relates to the Some non-narrative writing features are used types and content is sequenced effectively events in the text Shows a growing understanding of the Non-narrative texts are sequenced In non-narrative, appropriate sentence difference between narrative and nonappropriately with ideas or information patterns and word choices are evident developed within each section narrative Ideas are developed in a sequence of Each section in a non-narrative has a clear opening and closing sentence sentences There are consistent attempts to engage the reader Able to sustain the writing of longer texts, showing increasing stamina

YEAR 2 – STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION				
Working towards national standard	Working at the national standard	Working at greater depth within national standard		
Simple organisation reflects the purpose of the writing	Texts are organised according to their purpose	The appropriate format is selected to support the organisation of the content		
	Texts are structured in sections	Some attempts are made to make links between sections		

### YEAR 2 – GRAMMAR, SENTENCE STRUCTURE AND VOCABULARY Working towards national standard Working at the national standard Working at greater depth within national standard Some sentences are extended by both A variety of correctly structured sentence Confident and consistent use of: subordinating and co-ordinating conjunctions structures are used Simple, compound and complex sentences Some different sentence types are beginning Co-ordination and subordination are used A widening variety of conjunctions to add to be used for different purposes – confidently to extend ideas and add detail information and expand ideas command, question etc. and information Different sentence types appropriate of The grammatical patterns of sentence types the writer's purpose and to add impact The appropriate tense for the purpose of the are used accurately, and the sentences used Past and present tense, including the text is mostly used purposefully progressive forms Word choices are thoughtful and often The appropriate tense for the purpose is used Expanded noun phrases, mostly using ambitious with specific and technical consistently, including the use of the adjectives, add detail to writing vocabulary is used accurately progressive forms Language drawn from reading is used Vocabulary choices may not always be Adverbs and adverbials are used to help thoughtfully and appropriately sequence events and information appropriate or effective Detail is added with the use of expanded Adjectives, adverbs and expanded noun noun phrases using adjectives, prepositional phrases are used to add detail phrases and sometimes similes Word choices are thoughtful and sometimes Adverbials are used to sequence writing and ambitious, with specific or technical occasionally to show a change in setting vocabulary used in non-narrative writing

# **YEAR 2 – PUNCTUATION**

YEAR 2 - PUNCTUATION				
Working towards national standard	Working at the national standard	Working at greater depth within national standard		
Sentences are usually demarcated by capital letters and full stops	Capital letters and full stops are mostly used to demarcate sentences	Confident and consistent use of:  Capital letters and appropriate end marks		
Capital letters for names and the personal pronoun 'I' are used consistently and independently	Question marks are used effectively	to demarcate sentences Capital letters for the personal pronoun 'I' and for proper nouns Commas are used to separate items in a		
Beginning to use question marks and exclamation marks, realising the effect on the reader	Capital letters are used for the personal pronoun '1' and for most proper nouns	<ul> <li>list</li> <li>Apostrophes to mark contractions</li> <li>Apostrophes for singular possession</li> </ul>		
Some use of commas to separate items in a list	Commas are used to separate items in a list			
Some attempt at the use of an apostrophe for contraction and singular possession	Apostrophes are used to mark contractions			
	Apostrophes for singular possession are sometimes used correctly			

YEAR 2 – DRAFTING, EDITING AND PROOF READING				
Working towards national standard	Working at the national standard	Working at greater depth within national standard		
Writing is re-read for editing and proof reading when prompted	Writing is re-read to check for meaning	Writing is re-read, and its effectiveness evaluated effectively		
Changes to improve writing are made with prompting and adult support	Changes are made to improve the effect and impact, sometimes independently and sometimes in discussion with an adult	Changes are made to improve the impact		
	Writing is proof-read for accuracy with some guidance	Proof reading is careful and inaccuracies corrected, mostly independently		

YEAR 2 – SPELLING AND HANDWRITING				
Working towards national standard	Working at the national standard	Working at greater depth within national standard		
Most common exception words are spelt correctly	Most common exception words are spelt correctly	Common exception words are spelt accurately		
Some evidence that the spelling rules and patterns from Year 2 are beginning to be used correctly	Spelling rules and patterns from Year 2 are being used with increasing accuracy	Spelling rules and patterns from Year 2 are applied accurately with spelling strategies used to attempt more ambitious words		
Lower-case and capital letters are formed and orientated mostly correctly	Capital letters and lower-case letters are correctly sized and orientated	Capital letters and lower-case letters are correctly sized and orientated and most letters are joined		
	Diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters are used in some writing			
	Upper and lower-case letters are not mixed within words			

YEAR 6 – EXEMPLIFICATION STATEMENTS				
Working towards national standard	Working at the national standard	Working at greater depth within national standard		
Working towards national standard  The pupil can:  write for a range of purposes  use paragraphs to organise ideas  in narratives, describe settings and characters  in non-narrative writing, use simple devices to structure the writing and support the reader (eg. headings, sub-headings, bullet points)  use capital letters, full stops, question marks, commas for lists and apostrophes for contraction mostly correctly  spell correctly most words from the year 3/year 4 spelling list, and some words from the year 5/year 6		Working at greater depth within national standard  The pupil can:  write effectively for a range of purposes and audiences, selecting the appropriate form and drawing independently on what they have read as models for their own writing (eg. literary language, characterisation, structure)  distinguish between the language of speech and writing and choose the appropriate register  exercise an assured and conscious control over levels of formality, particularly through manipulating grammar and vocabulary to achieve this  use the range of punctuation taught at Key Stage 2		
spelling list  write legibly	appropriately (eg. using contracted forms in dialogues in narrative; using passive verbs to affect how information is presented; using modal verbs to suggest degrees of possibility)  use a range of devices to build cohesion (e.g. conjunctions, adverbials of time and place, pronouns, synonyms) within and across paragraphs use verb tenses consistently and correctly throughout their writing  use the range of punctuation taught at Key stage 2 mostly correctly (eg. inverted commas and other punctuation to indicate direct speech)  spell correctly most words from the year 5/year 6 spelling list, and use a dictionary to check the spelling of uncommon or more ambitious vocabulary maintain legibility in joined handwriting when writing at speed	correctly (eg. semi-colons, dashes, colons, hyphens) and, when necessary, use such punctuation precisely to enhance meaning and avoid ambiguity  There are no additional statements for spelling or handwriting.		

YEAR 6 – COMPOSITION AND EFFECT				
Working towards national standard	Working at the national standard	Working at greater depth within national standard		
Can write a range of texts for different purposes and different audiences	Can write a range of effective texts for different purposes and different audiences	Writing has a clear voice which is evident across all texts		
The features of the chosen text type are used appropriately for the purpose and the identified audience	Text types are well-chosen and used appropriately for the purpose and the intended audience	A range of writing for different purposes and audiences		
In narrative writing:  Effective settings, characters, atmosphere and plots are created  Dialogue is used to show character and to move events forward although there may be some over-use	In narrative writing:  Descriptions of settings, characters and atmosphere are used appropriately  Dialogue is used successfully to convey character and move events forward in combination with action and description	The features and conventions of a text type may be used unconventionally or manipulated to create specific effects  The influence of reading is evident in the thoughtful use of literary techniques and		
In non-narrative writing an appropriate style and vocabulary is used to maintain the reader's interest	<ul> <li>Narrative techniques, such as flashbacks and shifts in time, are used to maintain the reader's interest</li> </ul>	devices  Levels of formality are established, used appropriately and sustained and add to the		
Appropriate choices are sometimes made between informal and formal language dependent on the text purpose and audience	In non-narrative writing an appropriate style and vocabulary for the text type is used to entertain, inform and persuade	effectiveness and impact of the writing		
The text has a recognisable viewpoint or voice which may not always be sustained throughout	Appropriate choices are mostly made between informal and formal language dependent on the text purpose and audience			
Conclusions may attempt to relate subject to reader or make a direct appeal to the reader – endings may be the weakest text element	Viewpoint is well-controlled and convincing – texts have a clear voice which is sustained			
	Openings are varied and appropriate for the purpose of the text – they engage, and at times, may directly address the reader			

YEAR 6 – COMPOSITION AND EFFECT (CONTINUED)			
Working towards national standard	Working at the national standard	Working at greater depth within national standard	
	Closings are well thought out and conclude texts effectively		
	Closings may make direct comment on the content, pose a question or make a direct link to the opening		
	Closings may reflect a change in character		

YEAR 6 – STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION				
Working towards national standard	Working at the national standard	Working at greater depth within national standard		
Paragraphs are used to organise ideas	Selected structure is carefully controlled throughout the text, which maintains and emphasises its context and purpose	Paragraphing is precise and used to structure texts		
Ideas are developed and elaborated on within paragraphs	Paragraphs with clear topic sentences are used to guide the reader so that texts are well-shaped and follow a coherent sequence	Paragraphs are used to develop and expand ideas or points of view, themes and events in depth		
Fronted adverbials are used to link ideas between paragraphs and sometimes within paragraphs	Paragraphs are developed and expand ideas, information, opinions, descriptions, themes and events in depth with relevant detail	A varied range of cohesive devices is used across, and within, paragraphs		
Pronouns are sometimes used to support cohesion in, and between, paragraphs	A range of cohesive devices is used to link ideas within and across paragraphs	Paragraphs may vary in length according to the writer's purpose		
Dialogue, action and description are used appropriately – this may be unbalanced with an over-emphasis of one element	Cohesive ideas include repetition of words, phrases, sentences, adverbials including conjunctive adverbs, generalisers, verb tenses			
Appropriate organisational and presentational devices are used to structure text, dependent on the purpose and audience	Elements of dialogue, action and description are interwoven to support text structure, move events forward and maintain interest			
	Appropriate organisational and presentational devices are used to structure text dependent on the purpose and audience			

### YEAR 6 – GRAMMAR, SENTENCE STRUCTURE AND VOCABULARY Working towards national standard Working at the national standard Working at greater depth within national standard A variety of simple, compound and complex A variety of simple, compound and complex Dependent on the audience, purpose and sentences is used and mostly controlled to sentences is used with control to indicate context, writing demonstrates confident, create impact and effect levels of formality and to create effects controlled and effective use of: Sentences containing more than one The use of complex sentences is mostly Positioning and manipulation of clauses in clause are used to elaborate and to secure, with some variation of the position of complex and multi-clause sentences is varied convey complicated information precisely the clause, including embedding clauses to shift emphasis or focus for impact/effect Precise vocabulary and grammatical Attempts to construct more ambitious, multi-Relative clauses, which draw on a range of choices, including the deliberate use of clause sentences may not always be relative pronouns and adverbs, are used to the passive voice to affect the controlled, resulting in a lack of clarity clarify information and to add detail presentation of information in both formal and informal situations and the subjunctive mood, as appropriate A range of verb forms is used mostly Tense is chosen to support the cohesion of Varied, precise, appropriate and often accurately the text ambitious vocabulary is used A range of literary features add to the impact Sometimes successful in using modality to A range of verb forms is used accurately, and of the text – repetition, short sentences, position an argument and the passive voice to to create more subtle meanings figurative language shift focus Levels of formality are controlled through Modal verbs and adverbs are used to position Grammatical structures used do not always selecting vocabulary precisely and by an argument, as well as to indicate degrees of reflect the level of formality required for the manipulating grammatical structures purpose and audience of the text possibility, probability and certainty Noun phrases are expanded by adjectives, Passive voice is used to affect the focus or prepositional phrases and adverbials to add presentation of information in a sentence detail to sentences Expanded noun phrases sometimes lack Subjunctive mood may be used in very formal precision and purpose contexts Adverbials, including conjunctive adverbs, are Expanded noun phrases are used to be used as cohesive devices – these may be specific and add effective detail and basic or sometimes used inappropriately description

YEAR 6 – GRAMMAR, SENTENCE STRUCTURE AND VOCABULARY (CONTINUED)				
Working towards national standard	Working at the national standard	Working at greater depth within national standard		
Vocabulary choices are often imaginative	Expanded noun phrases are also used to convey complicated information with precision			
Technical vocabulary is usually used appropriately	Adverbials, including conjunctive adverbs, are used as cohesive devices – to precisely open paragraphs, change point of view, add detail			
Some vocabulary choices may not reflect the level of formality required for the purpose and audience of the writing	Vocabulary choices are imaginative, and words are used precisely and appropriately to create impact and enhance meaning			
	Choice of verbs are used to show, not tell, and to describe as well as qualifying adverbs			
	Technical vocabulary is selected appropriately			
	Word choices are made to reflect the level of formality			

# **YEAR 6 – PUNCTUATION**

TEAR 0 - FORCIOATION			
Working towards national standard	Working at the national standard	Working at greater depth within national standard	
The following are mostly used correctly:  Capital letters Full stops Question marks Exclamation marks Commas for lists Commas for fronted adverbials Apostrophes for contractions Inverted commas  Attempts to use other forms of punctuation may not be accurate: Dash Comma to demarcate clauses (including in dialogue) Colon Semi-colon  Use of commas is insecure and they may be used incorrectly in place of full stops	Used mostly accurately: Inverted commas Commas for lists Commas for fronted adverbials Commas for clauses, including the reporting clause in dialogue Punctuation for parenthesis Colon to introduce a list Brackets for parenthesis  Sometimes used accurately: Semi-colons to mark boundaries between independent clauses Colons to mark boundaries between independent clauses Dashes to mark boundaries between independent clauses Use of the comma is secure with only infrequent errors and comma splices	The complete range of punctuation is used mostly correctly, including:  Semi-colons to mark boundaries between independent clauses  Colons to mark boundaries between independent clauses  The use of commas is secure  Punctuation clarifies the intended meaning	

YEAR 6 – DRAFTING, EDITING AND PROOF READING							
	Working towards national standard		Working at the national standard		Working at greater depth within national standard		
	Evidence of independent changes when redrafting or editing		Second drafts show evaluative and reflective thinking		Drafting process is used efficiently and second drafts, or edited work, shows carefully considered changes or amendments		
	Changes may sometimes lack careful thought and may not add to the effectiveness of the writing		Thoughtful and effective changes are made to create effects and to impact on the reader	Z	Carefully considered changes or amendments enhance meaning, create impact or aid precision		
	Second drafts may look very similar to first drafts		Many changes will be effected independently		Writing is evaluated as a matter of course		
	Evidence of application of feedback from adults or peers		Clear evidence, over time, of application and use of feedback from peers and adults		Proof reading ensures a high level of accuracy		
	Independent proof reading may lack precision		Proof reading is mostly effective, and the usage of spelling, punctuation and grammar is checked for accuracy and consistency				
	Proof reading is effective, and accuracy is checked only when guided or directed to particular areas						

YEAR 6 – SPELLING AND HANDWRITING							
Working towards national standard	Working at the national standard	Working at greater depth within national standard					
Most words are spelt correctly from the Year 3/4 list	Most words are spelt correctly from the Year 5/6 list	Spelling is mainly accurate with only occasional errors in more ambitious vocabulary					
Some words are spelt correctly from the Year 5/6 list	Spelling strategies and the range of KS2 spelling rules and patterns are applied accurately	Legible, fluent handwriting is mostly maintained, with a personal style evident					
Common exception words spelt correctly	Handwriting is fluent and legible, with a personal style in which decisions may have been made whether or not to join letters						
Spelling rules and patterns from Years 1-4 are mostly applied correctly							
Spelling rules and patterns from Years 5/6 are sometimes applied correctly							
Handwriting is legible and mostly joined							