



Editing in Writing

Progression of skills

Progression of skills Y1 - 6 – an overview

(Taken from: DfE, English programmes of study: key stages 1 and 2, National curriculum in England, September 2013)

Editing – the process of making changes and suggestions that will improve the overall quality of writing, particularly in relation to language use, cohesion, clarity and expression.

Proof-reading - the process of correcting surface errors in writing, such as grammatical, spelling, punctuation and other language mistakes.

Year 1

Mainly oral editing of own work.

- Composition of sentences orally
- Re-reading to check for sense
- Discussions with teacher and peers about their writing



Year 2

Still primarily through discussion of own work but some written changes made.

- Evaluation of own work with teacher and peers
- Re-reading to check for sense, in particular focusing on verbs, including the correct use of the continuous form (verb + ing)
- Proof-reading for spelling errors
- Proof-reading for simple grammar and punctuation errors e.g. end of sentence punctuation added



Year 3/4

Changes made to work are usually recorded in written form. (Purple polisher)

- Assessing effectiveness of own and others' work
- Suggesting improvements to own and others' work
- Making changes to grammar for consistency e.g. verb forms corrected
- Making changing to vocabulary to improve effectiveness
- Changing pronouns to avoid repetition



Year 5/6

Changes made to work are usually recorded in written form. (Purple polisher)

- Assessing effectiveness of own and others' work
- Make changes to vocabulary, grammar and punctuation to enhance clarity
- Making changes to ensure that tenses and consistent and correct
- Making changes for subject and verb agreement
- Ensuring that an appropriate register is consistently used (e.g. distinguishing between language of speech and writing)