

The expected standard

The following statement explains what we believe a pupil should be able to achieve on the phonics screening check at the end of Year 1.

Pupils who have achieved the expected standard at the end of Year 1 will have experience of decoding all of the types of words that appear in the Year 1 phonics screening check. They will know the grapheme-phoneme correspondences and be able to blend phonemes in words with the orthographical structures that have been included in the screening check. However, pupils at the minimum expected standard will **not necessarily** score full marks.

In particular this means that in the screening check, a pupil working at the minimum expected standard should be able to decode:

- **all items** with simple structures containing single letters and consonant digraphs
- **most items** containing frequent and consistent vowel digraphs
 - frequent means that the vowel digraph appears often in words read by pupils in year 1
 - consistent means the digraph has a single or predominant phoneme correspondence
- **all items** containing a single 2-consonant string with other single letters (i.e., CCVC or CVCC)
- **most items** containing two 2-consonant strings and a vowel (i.e., CCVCC)
- **some items** containing less frequent and less consistent vowel digraphs, including split digraphs
- **some items** containing a single 3-consonant string
- **some items** containing 2 syllables

It should be noted that items containing a number of the different features listed above will become more difficult. It will become less likely that a pupil working at the minimum expected standard will be able to decode such items appropriately. For example, a pupil will be less likely to decode an item containing both a consonant string and a less frequent vowel digraph, than an item with a consonant string but a frequent, consistent vowel digraph.