



CUSP English long-term sequence 2025 – 26

A suggested sequence for schools: Increased Frequency model

Distribution of units

Year group	Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Total	Comment
1	9	10	9	28	Autumn term: transition from EY Summer term: securing phonics
2	13	10	11	34	
3	12	11	11	34	
4	12	11	11	34	
5	12	11	11	34	
6	12	10	8	30	Summer term: flex for KS2 assessments and units focused on end of KS assessment

CUSP Writing long-term overview (unsequenced)

	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5	Unit 6	Unit 7	Unit 8	
Year 1	Setting descriptions 2 x 2 weeks	Stories with familiar settings 2 x 3 weeks	Instructional writing 2 x 2 weeks	Recount from personal experience 2 x 2 weeks	Informal letters 2 x 2 weeks	Poetry: Playing with language 1 week essential 1 week enrichment	Poetry – pattern and rhyme 1 week essential 1 week enrichment	Poetry on a theme (nature) 1 week essential 1 week enrichment	28 weeks
Year 2	Character descriptions 2 x 2 weeks	Simple retelling of a narrative 2 x 3 weeks	Stories from other cultures 2 x 3 weeks	Recount from personal experience 2 x 2 weeks	Non-chronological reports 2 x 3 weeks	Formal invitations 2 x 2 weeks	Poems developing vocabulary 1 week essential 1 week enrichment	Poetry on a theme (humorous) 1 week essential 1 week enrichment	34 weeks
Year 3	First person narrative descriptions 2 x 2 weeks	Third person narrative (animal stories) 2 x 3 weeks	Dialogue through narrative (historical stories) 2 x 3 weeks	Formal letters to complain 2 x 2 weeks	Non-chronological reports 2 x 3 weeks	Advanced instructional writing 2 x 2 weeks	Performance poetry – including poetry from other cultures 1 week essential 1 week enrichment	Poetry on a theme (emotions) 1 week essential 1 week enrichment	34 weeks
Year 4	First person diary entries (imaginative) 2 x 2 weeks	Third person adventure stories 2 x 3 weeks	Stories from other cultures 2 x 3 weeks	News reports 2 x 2 weeks	Persuasive writing (adverts) 2 x 2 weeks	Explanatory texts 2 x 2 weeks	Critical analysis of a narrative poem 1 week essential 1 week enrichment	Poems which explore form 1 week essential 1 week enrichment	34 weeks
Year 5	Third person stories set in another culture 2 x 3 weeks	Playscripts (Shakespeare retelling) 2 x 2 weeks	Dialogue in narrative (first person myths and legends) 2 x 3 weeks	Balanced argument 2 x 2 weeks	Biography 2 x 3 weeks	Formal letters of application 2 x 2 weeks	Poems that use word play 1 week essential 1 week enrichment	Poems which explore form 1 week essential 1 week enrichment	34 weeks
Year 6	First person stories with a moral 2 x 2 weeks	Extended third person narrative (adventure stories) 2 x 3 weeks	News reports 2 x 2 weeks	Explanatory texts 2 x 2 weeks	Autobiography 2 x 2 weeks	Discursive writing and speeches 2 x 2 weeks	Shakespeare's sonnets 1 week essential 1 week enrichment	Poems that create images and explore vocabulary (war poetry) 1 week essential 1 week enrichment	30 weeks

Year 1 Autumn term															
								Half term							
1/9	8/9	15/9	22/9	29/9	6/10	13/10	20/10	27/10	3/11	10/11	17/11	24/11	1/12	8/12	15/12
New: CUSP Bridging unit 3 x Structured Storytime			Beegu		Where the Wild Things Are					The Storm Whale		The owl and the pussy cat or School's Choice Module: Rapunzel		Aesop's Fables: The Boy who cried wolf	
School's Choice Module: New: CUSP Bridging unit Daily sentence composition			Poetry (pattern and rhyme) 1 week	Setting descriptions 2 weeks		Instructional writing 2 weeks				Stories with familiar settings 3 weeks			Flexible content block	Poetry: playing with language 1 week	Flexibl e content block
Year 1 Spring term															
								Half term							
5/1	12/1	19/1	26/1	2/2	9/2	16/2	23/2	2/3	9/3	16/3	23/3				
The Tale of Peter Rabbit					Look Up!				And Tango Makes Three!		Flexible content	Chocolate Cake or School's Choice Module: Too Much Stuff			
Flexible block	Recount from personal experience 2 weeks			Informal letters 2 weeks		Poetry on a theme (nature) 1 week			Stories with familiar settings 3 weeks			Flexible content		Poetry: playing with language Enrichment 1 week	
Year 1 Summer term															
								Half term							
13/4	20/4	27/4	4/5	11/5	18/5	25/5	1/6	8/6	15/6	22/6	29/6	6/7	13/7		
Here we are					The Lion Inside or School's Choice Module: Peace on Earth				There's a Rang-Tan in My Bedroom			The Hare and the Tortoise		The Proudest Blue	
Poetry (pattern and rhyme) Enrichment 1 week	Instructional writing 2 weeks			Setting descriptions 2 weeks		Flexible content			Poetry on a theme (nature) Enrichment 1 week	Informal letters 2 weeks		Recount from personal experience 2 weeks		Flexible content	Use this week to teach the Reading unit The Proudest Blue

Year 2 Autumn term																
								Half term								
1/9	8/9	15/9	22/9	29/9	6/10	13/10	20/10	27/10	3/11	10/11	17/11	24/11	1/12	8/12	15/12	
Grandad's Island			The Goose that Laid the Golden Eggs		Mrs Noah's Pockets		Flexible content			Paddington				The Christmas Pine or School's Choice Module: The Last Tree		
Flexible block Suggested use of CUSP Strong Start		Character descriptions 2 weeks		Poems developing vocabulary 1 week	Simple retelling of a narrative 3 weeks					Formal invitations 2 weeks		Flexible content	Stories from other cultures 3 weeks			
Year 2 Spring term																
								Half term								
5/1	12/1		19/1	26/1		2/2	9/2	16/2		23/2	2/3	9/3	16/3		23/3	
The Quangle Wangle's Hat or School's Choice Module: Somebody Crunched Colin			Coming to England			Street Beneath My Feet or School's Choice Module: Planet Full of Plastic				The Rhythm of the Rain Or School's Choice Module: #Goldilocks (A Hashtag Cautionary Tale)		The Sun and the Wind			Flexible content	
Poetry on a theme (humorous) 1 week	Non-chronological reports 3 weeks					Formal invitations 2 weeks				Recount from personal experience 2 weeks			Simple retelling of a narrative 3 weeks			
Year 2 Summer term																
								Half term								
13/4		20/4		27/4		4/5	11/5	18/5	25/5	1/6	8/6	15/6	22/6	29/6	6/7	13/7
Little People, Big Dreams: David Attenborough				Fantastically Great Women who changed the World							Fantastic Mr Fox or School's Choice Module: The Enormous Crocodile					
Non-chronological reports 3 weeks					Flexible content		Recount from personal experience 2 weeks				Character descriptions 2 weeks		Poems developing vocabulary Enrichment 1 week	Stories from other cultures 3 weeks		Poetry on a theme (poems about change) 1 week

Year 3 Autumn term																		
								Half term										
1/9	8/9	15/9	22/9	29/9	6/10	13/10	20/10	27/10	3/11	10/11	17/11	24/11	1/12	8/12	15/12			
Greta and the Giants			The Pebble In My Pocket				Flexible content			Leon and the Place Between				& 'Twas the Night Before Christmas or School's Choice Module: What is AI?: The curious kid's guide to artificial intelligence				
Flexible block Suggested use of CUSP Strong Start		Poetry on a theme - emotions 1 week	First person narrative descriptions 2 weeks		Non-chronological reports 3 weeks					Formal letters to complain 2 weeks		Performance poetry (inc. poetry from other cultures) 1 week	Dialogue through narrative (historical stories) 3 weeks					
Year 3 Spring term																		
								Half term										
5/1	12/1		19/1		26/1		2/2	9/2		16/2	23/2	2/3	9/3		16/3	23/3		
Sam Wu is Not Afraid of the Dark (inc. My Shadow)										Operation Gadgetman or School's Choice Module: The Great Foodbank Heist								
Third person narrative (animal stories) 3 weeks				Non-chronological reports 3 weeks						Advanced instructional writing 2 weeks		Performance poetry (inc. poetry from other cultures) Enrichment 1 week	First person narrative descriptions 2 weeks					
Year 3 Summer term																		
								Half term										
13/4		20/4		27/4		4/5		11/5		18/5	25/5	1/6	8/6	15/6	22/6	29/6	6/7	13/7
The Dancing Bear or School's Choice Module: Wildsmith										The Magician's Nephew or School's Choice Module: The Little Prince								
Third person narrative (animal stories) 3 weeks				Advanced instructional writing 2 weeks						Dialogue through narrative (historical stories) 3 weeks			Poetry on a theme (emotions) Enrichment 1 week	Formal letters to complain 2 weeks		Flexible block		

Year 4 Autumn term																
								Half term								
1/9	8/9	15/9	22/9	29/9		6/10	13/10	20/10	27/10	3/11	10/11	17/11	24/11	1/12	8/12	15/12
The Queen’s Nose or School’s Choice Module: Land of Roar				The Raven or School’s Choice Module: What a Waste			Flexible content			The Girl who Stole an Elephant						
Flexible block Suggest ed use of CUSP Strong Start	Poems which explore form 1 week	Persuasive writing (adverts) 2 weeks		First person diary entries 2 weeks		Critical analysis of narrative poetry 2 weeks				Third person adventure stories 3 weeks			News reports 2 weeks		Flexible content	
Year 4 Spring term																
								Half term								
5/1	12/1		19/1	26/1		2/2	9/2	16/2	23/2	2/3	9/3	16/3		23/3		
Varjak Paw										Young, Gifted and Black						
Stories from other cultures 3 weeks				Explanatory texts 2 weeks			Flexible content			Persuasive writing (adverts) 2 weeks		First person diary entries 2 weeks		Poems which explore form Enrichment 1 week		
Year 4 Summer term																
								Half term								
13/4		20/4		27/4	4/5	11/5		18/5	25/5	1/6	8/6	15/6	22/6	29/6	6/7	13/7
Young, Gifted and Black (final week)		The Boy at the Back of the Class or School’s Choice Module: The Small Things									The Boy at the Back of the Class (final week)	Wind in the Willows or School’s Choice Module: The Borrowers				
Critical analysis of narrative poetry 2 weeks			Flexible content		Third person adventure stories 3 weeks						News reports 2 weeks		Stories from other cultures 3 weeks		Explanatory texts 2 weeks	

Year 5 Autumn term																
								Half term								
1/9	8/9	15/9	22/9	29/9	6/10	13/10	20/10	27/10	3/11	10/11	17/11	24/11	1/12	8/12	15/12	
Shackleton's Journey							Flexible content			The Explorer						
Flexible content	Formal letters of application 2 weeks		Dialogue in narrative (first person myths and legends) 3 weeks		Flexible content	Poems which explore form 1 week			Balanced argument 2 weeks		Third person stories set in another culture 3 weeks			Poems that use word play 1 week		
Year 5 Spring term																
								Half term								
5/1	12/1	19/1	26/1	2/2	9/2	16/2		23/2	2/3	9/3	16/3	23/3				
Boy in the Tower & Daffodils School's Choice Module: Boy Giant (3 blocks)									A Midsummer Night's Dream		I Am Not A Label or School's Choice Module: Curiosity (1 block only)					
Biography 3 weeks				Third person stories set in another culture 3 weeks						Flexible content	Playscripts (Shakespeare retelling) 2 weeks		Formal letters of application 2 weeks			
Year 5 Summer term																
								Half term								
13/4	20/4	27/4	4/5	11/5	18/5	25/5		1/6	8/6	15/6	22/6	29/6	6/7	13/7		
I Am Not A Label (final week)	Secrets of a Sun King & If School's Choice Module: Wrinkle in Time (2 blocks)								Secrets of a Sun King & If (final week)	Five Children and IT School's Choice Module: Rabbits (1 block)						
Biography 3 weeks				Dialogue in narrative (first person myths and legends) 3 weeks						Playscripts 2 weeks		Poems that use word play Enrichment 1 week	Balanced argument 2 weeks		Poems which explore form Enrichment 1 week	Flexible content

Year 6 Autumn term																
								Half term								
1/9	8/9	15/9	22/9	29/9	6/10	13/10	20/10	27/10	3/11	10/11	17/11	24/11	1/12	8/12	15/12	
Rooftoppers & The Listeners							Flexible content			Pig Heart Boy & How to Live Forever School's Choice Module: Now or Never (2 blocks)						
Flexible content	Autobiography 2 weeks		Discursive writing and speeches 2 weeks		First person stories with a moral 2 weeks		Flexible content			Poems that create images and explore vocabulary 1 week	News reports 2 weeks		Explanatory texts 2 weeks		Shakespeare's sonnets 1 week	
Year 6 Spring term																
								Half term								
5/1	12/1		19/1	26/1		2/2	9/2	16/2		23/2	2/3	9/3	16/3		23/3	
Skellig										All Aboard the Empire Windrush					The Island School's Choice Module: Climate Action	
Extended third person narrative (adventure stories) 3 weeks				Flexible content		Explanatory texts 2 weeks				Autobiography 2 weeks		Lead piece: Extended third person narrative (adventure stories) 3 weeks				
Year 6 Summer term																
								Half term								
13/4	20/4		27/4		4/5	11/5	18/5	25/5		1/6	8/6	15/6	22/6	29/6	6/7	13/7
The Island School's Choice Module: Climate Action	Dare to Be You or School's Choice Module: The Final Year									Dare to Be You (final week)	Introduction to Dickens - Extracts from Oliver Twist School's Choice Module: Treasure Island (2 blocks)					
Flexible content	Lead piece: News reports 2 weeks			Flexible block inc. SATs week		Shakespeare's sonnets Enrichment 1 week				Lead piece: Discursive writing and speeches 2 weeks		Flexible content	Poems that create images and explore vocabulary Enrichment 1 week	First person stories with a moral 2 weeks		Flexible content

School's Choice modules

Each year, we add new titles to the CUSP literature spine. These are linked to our CUSP Big Ideas and help children understand issues that are important in the world today. For 2025/26, the following titles will be published for schools to make use of.

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Bridging module texts: • Family and Me! - Michaela Dias-Hayes • This is our house - Michael Rosen • Super Me - Charissa Coulthard 3 x 1 week blocks	#Goldilocks (A Hashtag Cautionary Tale) - Jeanne Willis 1 x 2 week block	What is AI?: The curious kid's guide to artificial intelligence - Neal Layton 1 x 2 week block	The Small Things - Lisa Thompson 3 x 2 week blocks	Curiosity - Markus Motum 1 x 2 week block	The Final Year - Matt Goodfellow 3 x 2 week blocks