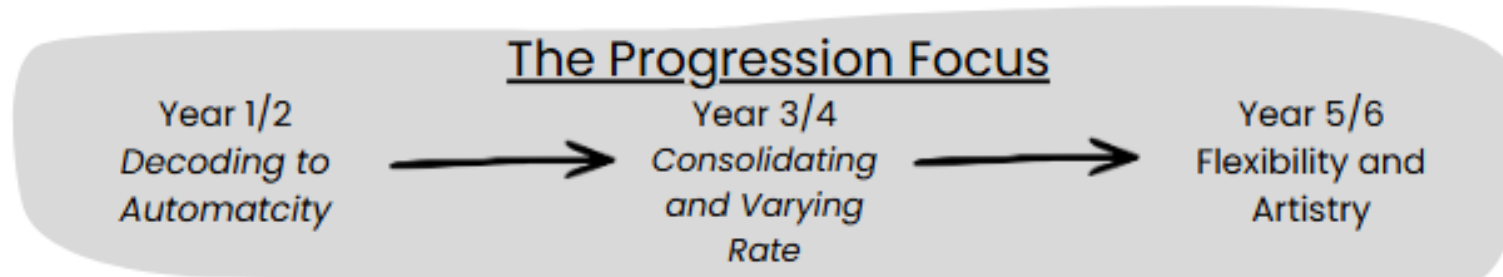


## Fluency Progression 26/27



**A Note on Fluency vs. Speed:** Speed is a byproduct of fluency, not the goal. A student reading at 150 WPM like a robot with zero comprehension is not a fluent reader. True fluency sounds like natural speech.

### **Key Stage 1: Decoding to Automaticity**

In KS1, the primary goal is shifting from conscious decoding to automatic word recognition so that brain power can be freed up for comprehension.

| Year 1                              | Fluency Focus                                         | Curriculum Objectives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Fluency Benchmarks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>The foundations of decoding.</i> | Grapheme-Phoneme Correspondences (GPCs) and blending. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Respond speedily with the correct sound for all 40+ phonemes.</li><li>• Blend sounds in unfamiliar words.</li><li>• Read common exception words (tricky words).</li><li>• Read aloud phonically-decodable books consistent with their developing phonic knowledge.</li></ul> | <p><b>Accuracy:</b> 90–95% accuracy on decodable texts.</p> <p><b>Rate:</b> Roughly 30–60 words per minute (WPM) by the end of the year.</p> <p><b>Expression (Prosody):</b> Minimal. Reading may sound choppy or word-by-word as they focus on decoding.</p> |

| Year 2                                           | Fluency Focus                                      | Curriculum Objectives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Fluency Benchmarks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Building automaticity and basic phrasing.</i> | Automaticity, self-correction, and basic phrasing. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read aloud books closely matched to their improving phonic knowledge, sounding out unfamiliar words accurately, automatically, and without undue hesitation.</li> <li>Read ahead while reading aloud to anticipate the next word.</li> <li>Re-read books to build up fluency and confidence.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Accuracy:</b> 95%+ accuracy on age-appropriate texts.</p> <p><b>Rate:</b> Roughly 60–90 WPM by the end of the year.</p> <p><b>Expression (Prosody):</b> Beginning to group words into meaningful phrases (e.g., phrasing short sentences instead of reading word-by-word). Starting to recognise full stops and question marks with vocal inflections.</p> |

## Lower Key Stage 2: Consolidating and Varying Rate

By LKS2, decoding should be mostly automatic. The focus turns to tracking text efficiently and adjusting reading speed depending on the text type.

| Year 3                                   | Fluency Focus                                   | Curriculum Objectives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Fluency Benchmarks                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>The transition to silent reading.</i> | Visual tracking, stamina, and basic expression. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply their growing knowledge of root words, prefixes, and suffixes to read aloud and to understand the meaning of new words they meet.</li> <li>Read books that are structured in different ways and read for a range of purposes.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Accuracy:</b> 97%+ accuracy.</p> <p><b>Rate:</b> Roughly 80–110 WPM.</p> <p><b>Expression (Prosody):</b> Standard punctuation (commas, full stops) dictates pauses. The voice reflects the mood or tone of a sentence.</p> |

| Year 4                       | Fluency Focus                               | Curriculum Objectives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Fluency Benchmarks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Interpretive reading.</i> | Vocabulary integration and character voice. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read aloud with appropriate intonation, tone, and volume so that the meaning is clear to an audience.</li> <li>Understand what they read by checking that the text makes sense to them and discussing their understanding of words.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Accuracy:</b> 97–99% accuracy.<br/> <b>Rate:</b> Roughly 90–120 WPM.<br/> <b>Expression (Prosody):</b> Dialogue is read with distinct character inflection. The reader uses text cues (like <i>italics</i> or <b>bolding</b>) to emphasise specific words.</p> |

## Upper Key Stage 2: Flexibility and Artistry

In UKS2, fluency becomes a tool for deep comprehension and performance. Students learn to manipulate their voice to convey subtext and adapt to complex layouts.

| Year 5                                 | Fluency Focus                                    | Curriculum Objectives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Fluency Benchmarks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Flexible and strategic reading.</i> | Text layout navigation and structural awareness. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply their growing knowledge of root words, prefixes, and suffixes, both to read aloud and to understand the meaning of new words.</li> <li>Read a wide range of poetry and plays aloud, using intonation, tone, and volume so that the meaning is clear to an audience.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Accuracy:</b> 99% accuracy.<br/> <b>Rate:</b> Roughly 110–130 WPM.<br/> <b>Expression (Prosody):</b> Reading adapts effortlessly to complex sentence structures (e.g., relative clauses, parenthetical dashes). The student smoothly navigates non-fiction layouts like infographics or footnotes without losing the thread of the text.</p> |

| Year 6                            | Fluency Focus                                       | Curriculum Objectives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Fluency Benchmarks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Performance ready fluency.</i> | Meaning-driven expression and automatic adaptation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confidently skim and scan to locate information quickly, alongside sustained, expressive oral reading.</li> <li>• Deliver dramatic readings of poetry and plays, manipulating pause and emphasis to convey subtle shifts in mood, tension, or character motivation.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Accuracy:</b> 99%+ accuracy on standard age-appropriate text.</p> <p><b>Rate:</b> Roughly 120–150+ WPM (silent reading rate is typically faster).</p> <p><b>Expression (Prosody):</b> The reader actively uses volume, pitch, and pacing to control the audience’s engagement. Pacing slows down for complex informational text and speeds up during high-action narrative sequences.</p> |