

Yellow Furze National School Homework Policy

Homework is seen as a valuable avenue of communication between parents and teachers. In most instances, homework will be a reinforcement of work already done or prepared and will give an opportunity for parents to become involved with their children's progress. While parents are encouraged not to actually do the homework, they are asked to check the child's homework for neatness and point out simple mistakes.

- All homework will generally be corrected by the teacher the following day. Exceptions to this would be projects or essays which may take longer to correct.
- From first to sixth class, parents are asked to sign the homework journal on completion of the work – this also acts as a means of communication between teacher and parent.
- Homework is given from Monday to Thursday and is generally not given at weekends unless it has been neglected during the week or in exceptional circumstances such as preparing for entrance exams
- June: Teachers have the discretion to allocate no written work during the last two weeks in June as a reward for hard work throughout the year.
- While some children consider only written work as homework, oral learning and paired reading is of equal importance.
- Aspects of Irish, English, Maths, Spellings and Tables will be given to pupils from first – sixth classes nightly or very frequently.
- If children fail to complete and produce homework without a valid reason they are sent to 'Homework Detention' which takes place from Tuesday – Friday during 1st break and is supervised by the Principal. Children are allowed bring a snack to detention and as soon as homework is completed they can go out to the yard.
- Children who have not been in detention may be rewarded with a night off homework on a termly basis i.e. September – Halloween, Halloween - Christmas, Christmas – Easter and Easter – Summer.
- In some cases where a child genuinely attempts work but is unable to do it, parents are asked to write a note in the homework journal so that this can be identified and remedied.
- Children may be released from homework on special occasions such as after First Communion or Confirmation or if they have earned a homework pass through the DFL or at the teacher's discretion.
- It is expected that teachers seek to meet parent of pupils who consistently present homework poorly done or badly presented.
- The Learning Support Teachers will occasionally give homework to their allocated pupils but only as a reinforcement of class work.
- Reading is routinely given as homework and should be accorded priority consideration.
- Junior Infants get a weekly worksheet which gives a brief description of the topics covered in class. Parents are requested to go over this worksheet with his/her child.
- Paired reading books are issued on Monday mornings to be read every night by child and parent and must be returned on Fridays.
- Homework is seen as a great way of training pupils in independent study – a skill essential in secondary and tertiary education.

Parent can help by:

1. Provide suitable comfortable facilities and remove distractions – T.V., younger siblings etc.
2. Help child overcome difficulties through explanation.
3. Parents should not do the homework for the child.
4. Send a note to the class teacher if a difficulty arises – the homework diary can be used for this.
5. Check and sign homework diaries
6. Notify class teacher if time spent on homework exceeds recommended times.
7. As children will tire towards late evening, encourage the completion of homework as early as possible.
8. Discourage morning homework.
9. Have a stock of rulers, pencils, parers, rubbers, tables book and an English dictionary, Irish/English dictionary available if possible.

Recommended homework times:

While the various grades would recommend different lengths of time for homework, this is not rigid and can vary between one pupil and another and even from one night to the next.

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Senior Infants: | 10-15 minutes maximum |
| First class: | 20 -30 minutes |
| Second class: | 30 minutes |
| Third class: | 30 -40 minutes |
| Fourth & Fifth Class: | 30 -40 minutes |
| Sixth class: | 40 -50 minutes |

Policy agreed: January 2012

Reviewed: September 2015