



Millen Primary School
Learning Together

Homework Policy

Endorsed December 2015

Millen Primary School supports homework. However, homework at Millen Primary School will not be compulsory, and will be disassociated from any form of reward or discipline for students (that is, there will be no rewards for homework completion nor punishments for not completing assigned homework).

BACKGROUND

Millen Primary School is committed to providing a quality learning environment. We believe that when the school, students and parents work together, we can enhance learning opportunities for all students.

There are many different views, within the educational community and beyond, about the purpose of homework, its value, and the amount of homework that should be set. The evidence base regarding the benefits of homework is complex and at times, conflicting. Homework is affected by many factors including; the home environment, student aptitude, motivation and age (Blazer, 2009 – cited in NSW Public Schools Research Scan 2012).

In line with the WA Department of Education's guidelines, input from the broader school community and endorsement by the Millen Primary School Council, this Homework Policy has been developed to document Millen Primary School's approach to homework.

Please take the time to read this policy and discuss it with your child. If you have any queries, please discuss with your child's teacher.

BENEFITS OF HOMEWORK

It is important that each student maintains a balanced lifestyle. Maintaining a healthy body and mind; as well as participating in unstructured play (for example; role playing, playing outside, constructing etc), socialisation (for example; playing/communicating with other children and sharing, being considerate etc) and time to relax are all essential elements to effective learning.

At Millen Primary School we also believe that some level of homework can support higher levels of student achievement through;

- consolidating, extending and practising skills and concepts learnt at school
- developing each student's sense of responsibility
- fostering independent learning and time management skills
- extending the time available to the teacher for monitoring student progress
- strengthening the partnership between the student, teacher and parent
- providing parents with an insight into what their child is learning and achieving and areas where their child needs extension

Examples of homework might include;

- finishing tasks not completed in class
- reading to or with lower primary students each day
- independent reading each day (including anything from a novel, story book, comic book, magazine etc)
- learning sight words for lower primary students
- spelling and vocabulary practise
- creative writing
- learning times tables and completing mathematical questions
- undertaking research projects or investigations

- online educational programs (for example, Reading Eggs, Mathletics, Study Ladder)

GUIDELINES

Homework will;

- be purposeful and relevant to individual student's learning needs
- be assigned taking into account family and extra-curricular circumstances
- take into account the student's age and developmental level (see below table for timing guidelines)
- be assigned on a weekly basis
- be handed back to the teacher seven days after it was assigned
- be reviewed weekly by the teacher and feedback provided promptly to students
- be increased gradually and consistently as students move through the lower primary (kindergarten to year 3) and into upper primary (years 4 to 6)
- be consistently applied, monitored and assessed with a whole-of-school approach
- not be given to students during school holiday periods, or when students are away during school time¹.

Year Level	Types of Activities	Timing Guidelines
Kindy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading 	30 minutes per week (students to manage their time and complete what they can)
Pre-primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Alphabet and numbers 	
Years 1 to 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Spelling and sight words • Timetables • Writing 	
Years 4 to 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Spelling • Mathematical problems • Writing • Research projects² 	45 minutes per week (students to manage their time and complete what they can)

Notes:

¹ Holiday homework - the WA Education Department does not see holidays during school time as a suitable reason for being absent from school. Therefore, teachers are not required to provide "holiday" homework.

² Research projects – to be limited to one per term and teachers will be required to provide a separate letter to parents outlining expectations and a marking guide.

³ Additional homework – it is anticipated that students undertaking specialist programs will be required to complete separate homework. For example, students undertaking PEAC (Primary Extension and Challenge) or SIMS (School of Instrumental Music) programs.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The role of the **Principal** is to;

- review the homework policy regularly
- ensure consistency across the school
- ensure that the school community is informed of the homework policy and that it is regularly communicated to students and parents

The role of the **Teacher is to**;

- ensure the class, students and parents are fully aware of homework expectations at the start of the year and/ or each semester; including topics to be covered, types of homework and time to be spent completing homework
- set appropriate and realistic homework, taking into account the needs of individual students and family circumstances
- ensure homework can be completed by students with readily available resources
- review and assess homework promptly, and provide feedback to students to ensure mistakes and misconceptions are corrected

Students are encouraged to;

- take responsibility for their homework
- complete homework to the best of their ability
- ask for assistance or clarification as required
- return homework to teacher as set

The role of **the Parent** is to;

- help establish a regular homework routine
- ensure the student has a suitable place and adequate resources to complete homework
- provide support and encouragement - assist the student if necessary, but not complete the homework for them
- assist by monitoring homework, signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of homework being set
- communicate with the teacher about any concerns

REFERENCES:

NSW Government, Education & Communities, May 2012, *Public Schools NSW Homework Policy: Research Scan*. www.school.nsw.edu.au

Western Australian Department of Education, February 2014, *Guidelines for homework: K-12 Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting*. <http://det.wa.edu.au/policies/detcms/policy-planning-and-accountability/policies-framework/guidelines/homework-guidelines.en?cat-id=3457121>