

# Homework Policy



Millen Primary School  
Learning Together

Reviewed in February 2023

This Homework Policy has been developed to document Millen Primary School's approach to homework and has been endorsed by the School Board.

Millen Primary School supports homework. However, this will not be compulsory. There will be no rewards for doing homework or punishments for not completing homework.

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

## **RATIONALE**

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 our 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 for Learning website ([evidenceforlearning.org.au](http://evidenceforlearning.org.au)) lists the following key findings:

1. Homework has a positive impact on average (+5 months), particularly with students in secondary schools.
2. Some students may not have a quiet space for home learning – it is important for schools to consider how home learning can be supported.
3. Homework that is linked to classroom work tends to be more effective. In particular, studies that included feedback on homework had higher impacts on learning.
4. It is important to make the purpose of homework clear to students (e.g. to increase a specific area of knowledge or to develop fluency in a particular area).

## **BENEFITS OF HOMEWORK**

Millen Primary School recognises the importance of maintaining a balanced lifestyle through a healthy body and mind. The school understands that family time is precious and often busy with after-school activities like sports, play dates, household chores and relaxation.

At Millen Primary School, we also believe that homework can support student learning 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
- strengthening the partnership between the student, teacher and parent
- providing parents with an insight into what their child is learning and how they are progressing

Examples of homework might include:

- reading to children or listening to children read each day
- independent reading
- learning sight words
- spelling and vocabulary practise
- learning times tables and practise maths skills
- undertaking *components* of research projects or investigations\*

## GUIDELINES

Homework will:

- be purposeful and relevant to individual student’s learning needs
- be provided in accessible formats
- be reviewed weekly by the teacher and feedback provided promptly to students
- be increased gradually and consistently as children 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 time\*\*
- Students in specialised programs may be given additional homework\*\*\*

Year Level	Types of Activities	Timing Guidelines
Kindy	Reading	30 minutes per week (students to manage their time and complete what they can)
Pre-primary	Reading Alphabet and numbers	
Years 1 to 3	Reading Spelling and sight words Timetables Writing	
Years 4 to 6	Reading Spelling Mathematical problems Writing Research projects*	45 minutes per week (students to manage their time and complete what they can)

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

- review the homework policy as required
- ensure consistency across the school
- ensure that the school community is informed of the homework policy and that it is regularly communicated to staff 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/term; including topics to be covered, types of homework and time to be spent completing homework
- use Connect to provide information on all homework (including any changes) to parents
- 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

**Parents** are encouraged to:

- establish their own family/household expectations regarding homework (the school believes families should be empowered to make decisions aligned to their values, resources and routines)
- provide support and encouragement - assist their child 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.

**Notes:**

\*Research projects and investigations – to be limited to one per term with adequate time provided and for completion to be done solely at school. Teachers will be required to provide a separate letter to parents outlining expectations and a marking guide.

\*\*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.

\*\*\* 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