A 2013 paper* by Carl Benedikt Frey and Michael Osborne, of the University of Oxford, argued that 47% of jobs then available were highly likely to be automated by 2030.

Over the same period, a “freelance economy” is predicted to emerge, requiring a workforce of creative, collaborative, flexible, digitally literate and self-directed individuals able to come together in teams and work effectively in a range of environments.

At Mylor Primary we’ve placed this global shift at the forefront of our thinking in the conception of our learning structure, and we’re passionately committed to imparting the foundation skills and qualities that will best serve our students in the years ahead.

Outstanding learning flexibility

Personalised at-school tuition complemented by horizon-expanding off-site input

2030 Focus is Mylor Primary’s highly flexible part-time-at-school learning stream. A minimum of two fixed days per week are required to be spent at school, with the balance of education delivered off-site through equally rigorous school-supported learning at home, and/or external specialist or advanced tuition focused on an area of particular interest or talent.

As with our full-time-at-school 2030 Vision students, we help our 2030 Focus students develop in a wide range of complementary and highly stimulating ways, all built on the philosophical foundation of personalised learning – recognition of the individual.

Each student’s particular needs, interests and goals are identified and responded to. All learning activities are meaningfully adapted for each individual to ensure that they’re always taking the most constructive next step for them, rather than being either rushed or held back by the relative progress of their peers.

And almost all grouping of students for on-site learning is done according to levels of understanding and mastery, rather than their age or year level.
By providing students with the opportunity to complement their at-school learning with specialist and/or advanced tuition in areas they have great interest or talent in, the 2030 Focus stream removes traditional limits on how high – or how fast – they can fly in those areas.

But importantly, they can pursue that enhanced development without losing social connection with their peers, or compromising their ongoing learning in other areas. 2030 Focus students are still able to attend all school functions and events, and are given all the same leadership opportunities as 2030 Vision full-time-at-school students.

**Three days at school ideal**

Although the minimum number of (fixed) days that 2030 Focus students are required to be at school is two, in most cases we’d recommend three.

Three days provides adequate time for our teachers to cover each area of the Australian curriculum, leaving the remaining two days available for this foundation to be built on either at home or externally. This level of contact will also allow teachers to better get to know the 2030 Focus students, and therefore provide a greater depth of monitoring and assessment of learning.

But of course, if you feel strongly that two days will work best for your child and family, or even four, then that’s fine too.

**Negotiated learning plans**

At the point of enrolling your child in the 2030 Focus stream, we will negotiate a formal learning plan for them with you. The plan will clearly define exactly which areas of the Australian Curriculum will be the school’s responsibility to deliver, and which will be yours.

Whatever the split, the school will provide you with a significant amount of support – guidance, ideas and take-home resources – to aid in its rigorous delivery. For example, a comprehensive home schooling “starter pack” of support materials will initially be issued.

Where necessary, we can also provide training in specific learning programs used at the school, such as in literacy and numeracy, to ensure consistency of instruction.

And if you’re thrown any curve balls, we’re always just a phone call away.

**Documenting student achievement**

As you would expect, your child’s off-site learning must be referenced to the Australian Curriculum, and their achievement monitored and regularly reported back to us at the school.

However, this certainly shouldn’t be seen as difficult or onerous. We can provide guidance on all aspects of these requirements to make it as simple for you as possible, and if the student is undertaking specialist tuition with an external provider then that provider will be required to provide evidence of the student’s learning for you.

Additionally, the framework we provide for the delivery of reporting will ensure it’s something you actually benefit from and look forward to.

**Constructive check-in days**

We will host two “check in” days each term, at which each 2030 Focus student will be required to conduct a 30-minute presentation explaining what their off-site learning goals have been (since their previous presentation), and what they’ve learned.

The presentations will be made to an audience of their fellow 2030 Focus students and – if the students wish to invite one – a friend from the Mylor Primary full-time-at-school learning stream, 2030 Vision. This will allow an opportunity for all students to receive valuable peer feedback.

Plus, while these presentations are taking place, all parents and caregivers involved in the 2030 Focus program will meet with the school Principal over coffee to discuss their children’s progress.

Documented evidence of learning will need to be provided at this time, and all involved will have the opportunity to discuss – privately if desired – any queries, ideas, requests or concerns they may have.
**Blended learning**

**A flexible combination of face-to-face, digital and online tuition**

Blended learning is at the heart of the Mylor Primary approach. For each broad learning task, or project, we aim to offer a range of different channels through which 2030 Focus students can gather and digest the information required to produce their work. These generally include:

- small-group teacher-guided discussion
- one-to-one teacher guidance
- third-party podcasts and videos
- online resources.

Importantly, even when students are accessing digital and online resources they will be doing so with our support and guidance.

**Selection of personal “blended learning playlists”**

At the outset of each project, 2030 Focus students individually discuss with their teachers which of the blended learning options they’d like to utilise (in addition to any mandatory instruction), and this forms their “playlist” for that project.

The teacher will seek to accommodate each student’s wishes, but will always ensure students are utilising sources they’re personally suited to and able to use effectively. Naturally, this mix will change for each student as he or she matures, just as the options presented will change as we continue to develop our bank of resources, and our teachers harness emerging technologies.

**Development of independent research skills**

The ability to safely and productively navigate and filter information in the online environment is a key component of digital literacy, and essential for effective learning to take place through the use of this medium.

Consequently, we work with each 2030 Focus student to help them develop these skills and areas of awareness prior to allowing their personal blended learning playlists to include any independent online research.

We also embed regular progress checks during projects so that the students’ research effectiveness can be monitored, and assistance provided if necessary.

**Small-group work to build collaboration skills**

Collaboration skills have been widely identified as becoming increasingly vital to an individual’s success in the future workforce, so group work remains an integral component of all Mylor Primary learning streams. Wherever appropriate, 2030 Focus learning tasks will include at least one mandatory “group work” activity.

**Access to online learning portal**

All 2030 Focus students will have access to an online learning portal for their school unit – either Bandicoot (Years R–3) or Magpie (Years 4–7).

Designed for students and parents/caregivers to access via any internet-enabled mobile device or computer, both at and away from school, the portal will house all the curriculum information required for students to undertake their learning.

It will also house records of students’ blended learning playlists, and any digital resources relating to projects the students are working on.
Co-construction of learning tasks

A great deal of research indicates that when children are involved in the co-construction and design of their own learning tasks, their engagement level increases. So we regularly provide such opportunities to our 2030 Focus students at Mylor Primary, across all areas of the curriculum.

We do this in a variety of ways, depending on the subject or task at hand, and the age and ability of the students. We also regularly consult the children on their particular areas of interest, and accommodate these wherever possible when choosing how to meet and, ideally, exceed national curriculum requirements.

Ensuring educational rigour

To maintain educational rigour, when co-constructing any project, students and teachers must together ensure that eight essential elements are present.

These are: significant content; development of 21st Century skills; in-depth inquiry; a central driving question; a need or desire to know; student voice and choice; time for teacher and peer critiques and revision; and presentation of work to a public audience.

For a brief explanation of each, visit: www.mpspbl.weebly.com

Next steps

Our Principal, Ms Ngari Boehm, would be delighted to meet with you to discuss how the 2030 Focus stream could most benefit your child and family. Simply call (08) 8388 5345 to arrange a convenient day and time.

You can also visit our website – www.mylorps.sa.edu.au – for further information about the school, including all our latest news and a calendar of events.
The primary reason we chose Mylor Primary was that it’s a small little community, and it offers a personalised approach. You can almost tailor an education to your child’s needs, requirements and interests, which is what we’ve done.

Tina Morriss, 2030 Focus parent