**Independent Reading at Sunbury College** 

**Every Year 7, 8 and 9 student participates in weekly Independent reading sessions**

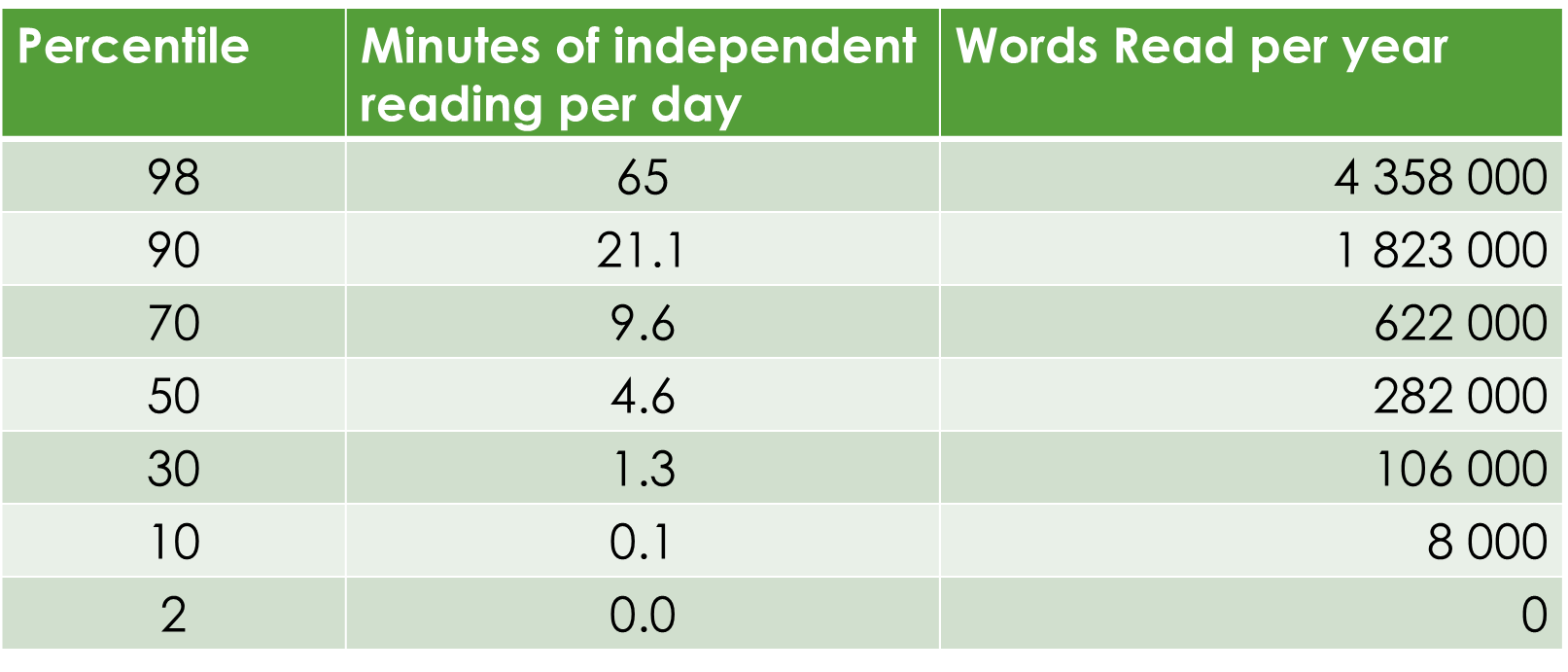
**Independent reading is a designated time where students**:

* Read continuously
* Keep their your own records
* Reflect on their reading
* Confer with their English teacher about reading
* Think about and write responses to their reading
* Practise decoding and comprehension strategies
* Practise and reinforce vocabulary (new, known and high-frequency words)
* Practise reading for fluency (rate and prosody)
* Determine the author’s purpose
* Think critically about texts
* Enjoy reading for extended periods of time

**Rationale for weekly sessions:**

* Reading leads to success
* Reading enhances our knowledge
* Reading helps us to learn about the world
* Reading enriches our creativity
* Reading expands our vocabulary
* Reading increases our concentration and focus
* Reading improves our communication skills
* Reading will help you get a good job
* There will always be something you need to read
* The only way to get better is to practise

**Independent reading promotes active problem solving and higher-order cognitive processes. It is these processes which equip each student to read increasingly more complex texts over time; resulting in better reading comprehension, writing style, vocabulary, spelling and grammatical development.**



**Adapted from Anderson R.C. Wilson, P.T & Fielding, L.G (1988) Growth in reading and how children spend their time outside, *Reading Research Quarterly* *“Creating Lifelong Readers through Independent Reading” Moss & Terrell page 15***