



# Orientation Information

**PRE-KINDERGARTEN**



**MERIDEN**  
AN ANGLICAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

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# Welcome to Meriden

We are delighted that you are joining our Meriden Community. As you are aware, Meriden is a Christian School in the Anglican tradition. As such, we seek to foster a positive and supportive environment where each student is a valued and supported member of our community and one where the “whole child” may flourish.

We trust that you and your daughter will find her time in Pre-Kindergarten at Meriden to be a warm and engaging experience. Our staff will introduce your child to the routines of a new school whilst fostering personal growth, guiding social development, encouraging a delight in learning and expanding horizons!

We believe that your child’s education is a partnership between parents and the School. Your daughter will feel secure if she knows that parents and teachers communicate freely and frequently. Regular communication helps you understand what we do and what is expected of your daughter, and it helps us better care for her. Please speak to your child’s teacher whenever you have any concerns or queries. Prompt communication may avert an escalating problem and provide the reassurance you seek.

We also encourage you to get to know the parents of your child’s friends. These people will travel with you through the years ahead as friends and as a support structure. It is often reassuring to have a positive relationship with the families with whom your child is involved.

We look forward to meeting you at Meriden community events, and we encourage you to become involved with the School as much as you can. There is a strong sense of camaraderie in our community, and you will always find a warm welcome! It is particularly helpful, both to you as a member of our parent body and to our School, if you can offer volunteer help. Students enjoy seeing their parents involved in their School as this reflects the importance of schooling and helps develop in each student a sense of the value of education.

**Dr Michele Benn**  
Head of Junior School

# General Information

## Term Dates 2024

### Term 1

Thursday 1 February to Friday 12 April

### Term 2

Monday 29 April to Friday 28 June

### Term 3

Tuesday 23 July to Friday 27 September

### Term 4

#### Pre-Kindergarten to Year 6:

Tuesday 15 October to Tuesday 10 December

#### Years 7 to 11:

Monday 14 October to Tuesday 10 December

## Location

The Junior School is located on two campuses. The Pre-Kindergarten classes are situated in the Junior School Lingwood Campus.

### Junior School Lingwood Campus for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

16 Margaret Street, Strathfield NSW 2135      Office hours 8:00am – 4:00pm  
Ph: 9752 9488      Fax: 9746 9497

Email: [juniorschool@meriden.nsw.edu.au](mailto:juniorschool@meriden.nsw.edu.au)

### Junior School Campus for Years 1 to 6

20 Margaret Street, Strathfield NSW 2135      Office hours 8:00am – 4:00pm  
Ph: 9752 9417      Fax: 9752 9499

Email: [juniorschool@meriden.nsw.edu.au](mailto:juniorschool@meriden.nsw.edu.au)

### Postal Address

PO Box 78, Strathfield NSW 2135

### Uniform Shop

Shop 1, 8-14 Lyons Street, Strathfield  
Ph: 9752 9492

Email: [uniform@meriden.nsw.edu.au](mailto:uniform@meriden.nsw.edu.au)

# Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

## Arrival

Pre-Kindergarten students should arrive at the Lingwood Campus between 8:30am and 8:50am. There are several local coffee shops and parks where parents can meet if they would like to chat with each other after the drop off.

Arriving on time each day helps the students settle into the classroom routine. If you arrive after 9:00am, you will need to speak to the staff member at Reception via the intercom at the Lingwood gate. Your daughter will be given a late note and walked to her classroom.

In Term 1, parents may walk their child to the classroom. A staff member will help her unpack. In our experience, prolonged goodbyes unsettle children at the start of the day. There are always staff available to help children who need some extra assistance.

From Term 3, parents will say goodbye at the top playground gate where a staff member is on duty. This is an important step in developing the girls' independence and self-regulation.

## Dismissal

### Collection on Foot

Collection on foot is available from 2:30 - 2:55pm. Parents who do not drive can collect their daughter from the Junior School Campus gate on Margaret Street. Please do not park in the School's Kiss and Ride zones. There are several no parking and no stopping zones in the area that need to be kept clear so that the traffic flows effectively.

### Margaret St Kiss and Ride

Children going home by car should use Kiss and Ride. Please note the dismissal times below.

2:30 - 2:55pm Pre-Kindergarten dismissal only.

3:00 - 3:10pm Pre-Kindergarten students with siblings only in Kindergarten.

3:10 - 3:40pm Pre-Kindergarten students with siblings in Years 1 to 6.

## Junior School Kiss and Ride Procedures

The Pre-Kindergarten Kiss and Ride zone is in Margaret St.

- Display your daughter's name on a large sign on your sun visor.
- Approach Kiss and Ride from The Boulevard after 2:30pm. If you come early, the staff will ask you to drive around the block. Please do not stop the car to wait on Margaret St outside the Senior School as this blocks the flow of traffic.
- Drive around the block if the zone is full as you must not block the traffic on Margaret St.
- Pull into the kerb when you reach the zone and remain in your car.
- A staff member will put your daughter in the car.
- Indicate your intention to enter back into the line of traffic and continue along Margaret St to Redmyre Rd.
- Please note that there is no right turn from Margaret St into Redmyre Rd during arrival and dismissal times.

# What to Bring Each Day

The school bag should contain:

- morning tea and lunch in containers that fit in the school bag;
- a drink bottle of water;
- the playground hat;
- the Meriden tracksuit jumper if the weather is cold;
- the yellow raincoat.

## Teaching and Learning

The Meriden Pre-Kindergarten curriculum is based on the NESA syllabuses, incorporating the Australian Curriculum and the Meriden Fidelis Model. The children are involved in curriculum decision making, and our environment is designed to enable and empower children to work independently and interdependently.

Teachers plan to provide students with the opportunity to engage in meaningful, authentic learning by encouraging students to:

- question
- discover
- investigate
- explore
- predict
- interpret
- wonder
- experiment
- speculate
- plan
- test
- communicate

We are committed to equipping our students with the skills they need to be confident learners. The curriculum offers the students opportunities to think deeply about the world and promotes student-driven action in response to this learning.

We provide a rich educational program. We focus on developing the children's pre-numeracy and pre-literacy skills, equipping them with strong social skills and extending their thinking about the world around them. Class teachers are supported by our team of specialist teachers in Music, Physical Education, Languages and Christian Education. There is collaboration between staff to ensure that the children's ideas and initiatives are included wherever possible.

### **Literacy and Numeracy**

Our pre-literacy program gives children a strong basis in phonemic awareness. It incorporates a wide variety of language and literacy activities using both fiction and non-fiction books and interactive whiteboard activities. We read to the children regularly and encourage them to think about the connections between letters, sounds and words as they explore picture books. A Literacy Centre is provided in each classroom with various writing materials and pre-literacy activities to facilitate the children's understanding of communication and meaning-making via print.

The pre-numeracy program covers areas such as whole numbers, 2D shapes, 3D objects, measurement and probability. Through individual activities and group games, the children enhance their understanding of all the

mathematical areas studied. The children ask questions and explore mathematical questions, using everyday language, materials and informal records to demonstrate their understanding of mathematical concepts.

Throughout each term, we engage in investigations and projects that encourage the children to ask questions, think critically, broaden their understanding of other cultures and extend their awareness of global issues. These topics cover a range of issues and are the framework for projects and skill development.

Many special events throughout the year support the students as we seek to ensure that they are well-informed, compassionate and optimistic global citizens. These include Book Week, Global Awareness Week and Christmas celebrations. We look forward to sharing these special days with our future students.

## **Specialist Lessons**

### **Library**

Library lessons are wonderful times for our Pre-Kindergarten students to become familiar with the library environment. Each session runs for approximately 30 minutes with the library and teaching staff. Library times are designed to be an opportunity for students to engage positively with literature and literacy experiences. An additional purpose of these sessions is to provide the children with skills and confidence in selecting and borrowing books to take home.

### **Physical Education**

The Pre-Kindergarten children are involved in weekly Physical Education lessons with a specialist PE teacher.

The main focus areas of the PE program are:

- encouraging maximum participation;
- extending and strengthening gross motor skills;
- hand/eye coordination;
- building confidence;
- promoting teamwork and discipline;
- developing ball skills; and
- having fun.

The lessons provide a sequential, developmental set of movement activities using various equipment and resources. The children participate in activities such as gymnastics, group games, obstacle courses, kicking, throwing and catching, crawling and climbing, balancing exercises and working through different stations.

### **Music**

Music classes offer children the opportunity to develop musical skills through singing, moving and playing percussion instruments. Children take pleasure in learning and performing songs and rhymes, which are often combined with movement activities. These practical activities can then transfer to playing simple percussion instruments.

The students engage in listening and movement activities using music from a variety of styles. Their imagination and self-expression develop during these lessons as they learn to express themselves in a supportive, enjoyable environment.

### **Chapel and Christian Education**

As a school in the Anglican tradition, Meriden places the Christian faith at the centre of School life. The expression of this faith is conducted in a community that promotes respect for all its members, including those of other faith backgrounds. During Pre-Kindergarten, the Christian faith is expressed in both structured and unstructured ways.

Meriden's Chaplain conducts weekly Chapel times. Chapel is a short time of singing, prayer and stories that introduce the themes of the Bible. These themes are developed in a Christian Education program that explores who God is and the teachings of Jesus.

### **Languages**

Language teachers create excellent French and Chinese programs for Pre-Kindergarten students. The lessons are rich in singing, drama and games and the children enjoy their lessons enormously.

The Language classes in Pre-Kindergarten aim to give the children some familiarity with the sound of languages, as well as allow them to develop a basic understanding of the languages. The children build their vocabulary of colours, numbers, greetings and rhymes and develop their confidence in speaking simple phrases and participating in listening and responding activities.

## The Meriden Community

Meriden encourages parental involvement in a wide range of activities. We appreciate your support for our students through attendance at music concerts, plays, sporting activities and special events.

All correspondence about events and activities is sent via email and the Meriden App and parents should address any questions to the relevant staff member. Social media groups set up by parents are not official means of communication between the School and home, and parents should not feel expected or pressured to participate.

Some associations would welcome your involvement. These groups make an invaluable contribution to the School's resources and play a pivotal role in the School's community life.

### Pre-Kindergarten

We warmly welcome parental involvement in Pre-Kindergarten. There are several ways for you to be involved in the Pre-Kindergarten program and support the children's learning. One example is by volunteering to be a parent helper on our excursions. Parent helpers are a valuable asset in facilitating these outings.

### Social Organisers

In the Junior School, a group of parents is appointed annually by the School to act as Social Organisers for a year group. The role of Social Organisers is to support the School, to assist the P and F, JSA and the Meriden Foundation in their social and fundraising activities, and to encourage and organise social interaction amongst year-level families.

**Please note:** Information about School or classroom matters should always be sought from class teachers, and any issues of concern should be raised with the class teacher or the Pre-Kindergarten Coordinator, and not with Social Organisers.

### Junior School Auxiliary (JSA)

The JSA is mainly for parents of children in the Junior School, but it is open to anyone who wants to participate. It holds special activities for Junior School families, including an annual family activity, Mother's Day stall and Father's Day Breakfast. The JSA also coordinates the Junior School Disco and provides valuable fundraising assistance to the School.

### Parents and Friends Association (P and F)

Major events coordinated by the P and F include the Senior School Parents' Expo, Mother's Day Breakfast and the Senior School Father's Day Breakfast as well as catering at some of our outdoor concerts and the annual Family Carols.

## Meal Times

Morning tea and lunch are brought from home. We kindly ask parents to provide nutritional foods in their child's lunch box. Staff will engage children in experiences, conversations and routines that promote healthy lifestyles and good nutrition to ensure the children are aware of the importance of these. We recommend that you don't provide "treat" foods as part of regular meals or snack breaks.

We ask that you do not include foods that contain nuts and nut products, including Nutella, peanut butter and muesli bars, in your child's lunchbox to minimise the risks for children with allergies.

The School has a canteen service available for lunch orders. All orders are to be placed online before 8:00am.



# Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)

Meriden's Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) includes Before School and After School Care programs which are operated by Camp Australia. The programs offer a safe and caring environment for children to play, form friendships and create positive memories. We recommend all parents register their children with the service. OSHC Care operates from the Cottage on the Junior School Campus (Years 1 to 6), on the corner of Vernon St and Redmyre Rd, for children in Pre-K to Year 6.

Varied and fun activities are included in the programs, and breakfast and afternoon tea are served daily.

**Customer Service Team:** 1300 105 343

For further information or to register, visit Camp Australia's website at [www.campastralia.com.au](http://www.campastralia.com.au).

## Uniform

The Uniform Shop supplies the entire uniform, except for school shoes, for all students. Further information about uniforms can be found in the Facilities and Services section of the School's website. To book an appointment for a fitting, go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and enter the code **5usv4**.

We expect the girls will be in full school uniform throughout the school year. The summer uniform is usually worn throughout Term 1 and Term 4; the winter uniform is usually worn throughout Term 2 and 3.

Parents are expected to support the School's Uniform Code fully and make every possible effort to replace or repair lost, damaged or ill-fitting uniform items as soon as possible.

School hats are to be brought to School every day, without exception. Children must wear their hats during playtimes as the Pre-Kindergarten has a no hat no play policy. A yellow safety raincoat must be kept in your child's bag every day.

The summer uniform for the Pre-Kindergarten children consists of a Meriden short sleeve polo shirt, Meriden navy shorts, white ankle socks and white sports shoes. The winter uniform for Pre-Kindergarten consists of the Meriden long sleeve polo shirt, Meriden navy track top, Meriden navy track pants, white ankle socks and white sports shoes. Sports shoes should be plain white sports shoes, preferably leather. Dark blue trim is permissible. Children in Pre-Kindergarten may select a plain white velcro sports shoe.



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**JUNIOR SCHOOL**

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MERIDEN SCHOOL CRICOS NO. 02318F