



Orientation Information

JUNIOR SCHOOL



MERIDEN
AN ANGLICAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Contents

Welcome to Meriden	1
General Information	2
Term Dates 2024	2
Location	2
Arrival and Dismissal Procedures	3
Arrival	3
Dismissal	3
Afternoon Kiss and Ride	3
What to Bring Each Day	4
The Meriden Community	4
Junior School Community Involvement	4
Junior School Auxiliary (JSA)	4
Parents and Friends Association	4
Junior School Social Organisers	4
Teaching and Learning	5
Subjects	5
Differentiation	5
Student Support	5
Camps, Excursions, Swimming Programs	6
Camp Program	6
Excursions	6
Swimming Program	6
Sport and, Cocurricular and Extracurricular Programs	6
Healthy Food Guidelines	6
Canteen	6
'Crunch 'n' Sip'	6
Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)	6
Registration and Bookings	7
Uniform	7
Uniform Shop	7

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 and we seek to foster a positive and supportive environment where each student is a valued and supported member of our community.

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

We believe that your daughter's education is a partnership between parents/guardians and the School. Regular communication helps you to understand what we do and what we expect from your daughter, and it helps us to better care for her. Prompt communication can avert an escalating concern and provide the reassurance you seek.

Your daughter will be given a Junior School Student Planner and Handbook when she commences at Meriden. Please read the Planner as it contains information about the workings of the School and who to contact. We will hold a Class Information Evening early in Term 1, 2024 to answer any questions you may have.

We look forward to meeting you at Meriden community events and we encourage you to become involved with the School as much as possible. There is a strong sense of camaraderie in our community and you will always find a warm welcome. It is helpful to you as a member of our parent body and to our School if you are able to offer volunteer help. Students enjoy seeing their parents involved in their School and your involvement conveys 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

Junior School Campus for Years 1 to 6

20 Margaret Street, Strathfield NSW 2135

Ph: 9752 9417

Fax: 9752 9499

Office hours 8:00am – 4:00pm

Email: juniorschool@meriden.nsw.edu.au

Junior School Lingwood Campus for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

16 Margaret Street, Strathfield NSW 2135

Ph: 9752 9488

Fax: 9746 9497

Office hours 8:00am – 4:00pm

Email: juniorschool@meriden.nsw.edu.au

Senior School

3 Margaret Street, Strathfield NSW 2135

Ph: 9752 9444

Fax: 9746 9400

Administration Office 8:00am – 4:30pm

Email: enquiries@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

Before and After School Care - Camp Australia

Phone: 1300 105 343

Email: www.campaustralia.com.au

Service Phone: 0404 799 573

Monday to Friday 3:00pm – 6:00pm

(School days only) 7:00am – 8:45am

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Arrival

Students should arrive at School between 8:00am and 8:20am. Students arriving before 8:00am must attend Before School Care.

- All students arriving by car should use the Kiss and Ride zones. There are plenty of teachers on duty in the morning who can assist with students who need extra reassurance.
- Parents who walk their children to School say goodbye at the gate.
- There are several local coffee shops and parks where parents can meet if they would like to chat with each other after drop off.

Students in Years 1 and 2 can use the Margaret St zone in the morning and students in Years 3 to 6 can use the Vernon St Kiss and Ride zone.

- Stop your car where the teacher on duty (orange vest) is stationed.
- Stay in your car and let the teacher help your child out of the car.
- Ensure that your child leaves the vehicle via the kerb-side door.
- Use your indicator and merge into the traffic lane.
- The teacher on duty will help your child walk into School.

Dismissal

3:10pm School concludes for Years 1 to 6.

Children in Years 1 to 6 going home by car should only use Kiss and Ride. Students in each class will be escorted to waiting areas, as follows:

- The breezeway, adjacent to the Margaret Street Kiss and Ride, for all Years 1 and 2 students and their Pre-K to Year 6 siblings.
- The Blackman Auditorium, adjacent to the Vernon St Kiss and Ride, for girls in Years 3 to 6 with no Pre-K to Year 2 siblings.

Afternoon Kiss and Ride

- Display your family name on a large sign on your sun visor.
- Arrive **after 3:10pm**.
- Pull into the kerb when you reach the zone and remain in your car.
- A teacher will put your daughter in the car.
- Drive around the block if the zone is full as **you must not block the traffic on Margaret St, Vernon St or Redmyre Rd.**
- Indicate your intention to enter back into the line of traffic and continue along the street.
- Never double park or carry out U-turns or three-point turns in school zones.
- Always follow the direction of staff supervising the Kiss and Ride zones.
- Show courtesy to all and remain calm and patient.

Misuse of the Kiss and Ride zone may result in Traffic Infringement Notices being issued.

On foot collection from Gate 11 is only available for families who walk home or catch public transport. Please email Junior School Reception if this applies to your family and you would like to register your child for on foot collection.

Gate passes are available for girls in Years 5 and 6 who need to leave the school grounds by themselves. Please email Junior School Reception if your daughter requires a gate pass.

Please note: Girls who are not collected by 3:40pm will be taken to After School Care in the Cottage.

What to Bring Each Day

Students should be dressed in their summer uniforms, including the Meriden hat. The school bag should contain:

- “crunch and sip” – a small snack of fruit or vegetables;
- morning tea and lunch in containers that fit in the school bag;
- a drink bottle of water;
- the playground hat;
- the Meriden jumper if the weather is cold;
- the yellow raincoat;
- a pencil case (Years 3 to 6).

We discourage the girls from bringing mobile phones and smartwatches to School, especially if they are dropped off and collected by car. Mobile phones and smartwatches must be signed in at Reception on arrival and collected at 3:10pm.

Junior School students are not permitted to use mobile phones or smartwatches on the Meriden campuses or when travelling on Meriden buses to and from sport or other 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 provided 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.

Junior School Community Involvement

There are several ways for parents/guardians to be involved in the life of the Junior School. One example is by volunteering to be a parent helper on our excursions.

Junior School Auxiliary (JSA)

The JSA is mainly for parents of children in the Junior School, but it is open to anyone who would like 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 fundraising assistance to the School.

Parents and Friends Association

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.

Junior School Social Organisers

In the Junior School, parents are appointed annually by the School to act as voluntary Social Organisers for each grade. The role of the Social Organisers is to support the School, assist the P and F, JSA and the Meriden Foundation in their social and fundraising activities, and encourage and organise social interaction amongst year-level families. Social Organisers may invite families to attend various social functions.

Please note: Information about School or classroom matters should be requested from teachers, and any issues of concern should be raised with the class teacher or senior staff and not with Social Organisers. Similarly, any questions about school events should be directed to the organising teacher or Junior School

Reception. The School does not endorse the dissemination of information via social media groups created by parents.

Teaching and Learning

The Junior School offers a rich educational program that meets New South Wales and Australian Curriculum requirements. Meriden is registered/accredited with the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA).

Meriden School has developed and implemented The Fidelis Model, a Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12 Curriculum Framework promoting the best educational practice.

The Fidelis Model outlines:

1. The solid Christian Foundations of the School -
Characteristics of hope, love, faithfulness and grace
2. Knowledge and Understanding that students need to acquire -
Through the learning environment, curriculum design & learning experiences
3. Learning Practices that students need to master -
Becoming skilled communicators, resourceful learners and flexible thinkers
4. Capabilities, competencies and skills to develop -
Global outlook, leadership and sustainability
5. Attitudes and Values that are fostered -
Valuing the self and others, resilience and reflection and practising generous participation

Subjects

As required by NESA, all students from Kindergarten to Year 6 receive regular instruction in each of the Key Learning Areas (KLAs):

- English
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology
- Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE)
- Personal Development, Health, Physical Education (PDHPE)
- Creative Arts (Music, Visual Arts, Dance and Drama)

All classes have Christian Education, Music and Language (French or Mandarin) lessons that are taught by specialist teachers.

Christian Education and Chapel are integral parts of the spiritual development of every student, and exemptions in these areas are not granted.

Differentiation

Students learn at varying rates, in different ways and have diverse educational needs. For optimal learning, the students' educational experiences need to be facilitated appropriately. Teachers plan appropriately for differentiated instruction by tailoring the content, process, product and learning environment to meet student needs.

Student Support

The Dean of Academic Care oversees student wellbeing and academic progress. Meriden employs a part-time Junior School Counsellor.

The Learning Support Coordinator assists teachers in implementing adjustments for students with disability or specific learning needs. Teachers may refer students for learning support.

Class teachers provide enrichment and extension through differentiated learning experiences and are assisted by the Dean of Curriculum and Dean of STEM.

Parents who wish to seek additional support, counselling or enrichment for their daughter should initially contact the class teacher or Coordinator.

Camps, Excursions, Swimming Programs

Camp Program

Our camps are held in Term 4 each year and provide the girls with opportunities to participate in safe, outdoor education activities. Overnight camps begin in Year 4, with Year 6 attending two camps per year.

Excursions

Students are involved in excursions (outside School) or incursions (at School) that are linked to components of the girls' studies.

These activities are a vital and compulsory part of the educational program and, in each case, parents are advised of the event. Parental permission is required for all off-site excursions. The School prepares a comprehensive risk assessment for each excursion/incursion to assist in keeping the girls safe.

Camp and excursion costs are included in the School Resource Fee.

Swimming Program

All Junior School students from Kindergarten to Year 6 participate in an annual swimming program held in the swimming pool on the Senior School campus. No additional costs are incurred for the swimming programs. These lessons are also considered an essential and compulsory part of our curriculum.

Exemption from swimming may only be granted in the rarest of special needs cases through a written application to the Head of Junior School. Medical certificates are usually required for exemption.

Sport and, Cocurricular and Extracurricular Programs

The School offers a wide range of sporting and cocurricular programs. Details of these are regularly made available through our newsletters. Registrations for 2024 activities will take place in Term 4, 2023.

Information will be emailed to all families prior to the registration period.

Healthy Food Guidelines

We ask that parents send their daughters to School with healthy food. As the School does not have facilities for heating lunches or cold storage, lunches can be in a cooler bag containing a frozen drink or small freezer brick. Lunchboxes should fit in the school bag.

Many snack foods are not ideal for young children as they are high in either fat or sugar. Healthy snacks include fresh fruits, vegetables, cheese and some nut-free health food bars. Please do not send food containing nuts or nut products.

Canteen

Lunches are ordered online and orders must be placed by 8:00am.

'Crunch 'n' Sip'

Girls should bring a small container of raw, bite-sized vegetables or fruit daily for a healthy food snack that takes place during each morning session before recess.

Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)

Meriden's Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) includes Before School and After School Care programs that are operated by Camp Australia.

A variety of fun activities are included in the programs, and breakfast and afternoon tea are served daily. Homework and quiet time are also encouraged and supported.

Any students arriving at School before 8:00am need to attend Before School Care as there is no playground supervision before 8:00am.

Any students remaining at School after 3:40pm will be taken to OSHC, where they may be collected by a parent or a sibling in Year 9 or above.

Registration and Bookings

- All families should register their child with Camp Australia, even if they do not plan to use the service.
- Enrolment, bookings and payment for the Before School and After School Care programs must be made directly with Camp Australia.
- Please phone 1300 105 343 if you have any questions about the service.

Bookings and cancellations can be made online, 24 hours a day, seven days per week.

Uniform

Term 1	Summer uniform
Term 2	Winter uniform
Term 3	Winter uniform
Term 4	Summer uniform

Meriden girls must wear their uniforms correctly at all times.

Girls in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 may wear lace-up or velcro-fastened shoes in a traditional school shoe style. They must not have buckles or a separate strap. Some velcro examples are shown below.



Students wear the sport uniform on the day of their one-hour PE lesson, and class teachers will advise parents of this day at the beginning of the year. The full tracksuit must be worn to and from School in winter. Girls must wear properly supported sports shoes for sports lessons. Kindergarten to Year 2 may select a velcro or lace-up sports shoe.

During summer, socks must be a short, white fold-down style which is available at the Uniform Shop.

Only plain stud earrings are permitted, and sleepers must not be worn for safety reasons. Studs may be plain silver, plain gold or pearl. Incorrect items will be removed at School and returned home. Smartwatches are not to be worn at School.

Hair must be tied back neatly with a blue ribbon. The Meriden hat must be worn to and from School each day. The soft playground hat is worn at morning tea and lunch and during PE lessons. We have a "no hat, no play" policy.

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop supplies the entire uniform, except for school shoes. The shop can be contacted by telephone on 9752 9492 or by email on uniform@meriden.nsw.edu.au.

Information about opening hours and uniform requirements is available on the Meriden website.

Appointments should be made with the Uniform Shop to fit a student for her uniform. A full fitting takes approximately 30 to 45 minutes and the student must be in attendance. All new students must be fitted for their uniforms. To make an appointment:

1. visit the website: www.schoolinterviews.com.au;
2. enter the code **5usv4** if your daughter is starting at Meriden in 2024;
3. follow the instructions as shown on the website.

If it is necessary to return or exchange goods purchased, please try to ensure you have your receipt of purchase and that the items have not been worn, marked or labelled. Due to health regulations, some items cannot be exchanged or returned, including swimsuits, hats, tights and socks.



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