



Orientation Information

KINDERGARTEN



MERIDEN
AN ANGLICAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

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Welcome to Kindergarten

We are delighted that you are part of the Meriden community. Meriden is a Christian School in the Anglican tradition. We seek to foster a positive and supportive environment where each student is a valued member of our community.

We trust that you and your daughter will find her time at Meriden a warm and engaging experience. Our staff will introduce your daughter to the routines of Kindergarten while encouraging her joy in learning 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 understand what we do and what we expect of your daughter, and it helps us better care for her. Prompt communication can prevent an escalating concern and provide reassurance.

Your daughter will receive a Junior School Student Planner when she begins Kindergarten. Please read the Planner as it contains information about the workings of the School and staff to contact. The Kindergarten teachers will hold a Meet the Teacher Evening early in Term 1, 2025 to answer any questions you may have.

We look forward to seeing you at Meriden community events, and we encourage you to become involved with the School as much as possible. Our community has a strong sense of camaraderie, and you will always find a warm welcome. It would be helpful to you as a member of our parent body and our School if you could offer volunteer help. Students enjoy seeing their parents involved in their School, and your involvement conveys the importance of schooling and helps develop a sense of the value of education in each student.

General Information

Term Dates 2025

Term 1

Thursday 30 January to Friday 11 April

Term 2

Tuesday 29 April to Friday 27 June

Term 3

Tuesday 22 July to Friday 26 September

Term 4

Pre-Kindergarten to Year 6:

Tuesday 14 October to Tuesday 9 December

Years 7 to 11:

Monday 13 October to Tuesday 9 December

Location

Junior School Campus for Years 1 to 6

20 Margaret Street, Strathfield NSW 2135

Ph: 9752 9417

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

Office hours 8:00am – 4:00pm

Email: juniorschool@meriden.nsw.edu.au

Senior School

3 Margaret Street, Strathfield NSW 2135

Ph: 9752 9444

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

Kindergarten students should arrive at the Lingwood Campus between 8:00am and 8:20am. 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 the bell has rung at 8:25am, 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.

Arrival on Foot

At the beginning of the year, parents may choose to walk their child into the Lingwood playground, although Kiss and Ride is encouraged. Say goodbye to your daughter in the playground. A staff member will walk your daughter to her locker and help her unpack. In our experience, prolonged goodbyes are an unsettled experience for children at the start of the day. There are always staff available to help children who need some extra assistance.

Later in the year, parents will preferably say goodbye at the Lingwood gate on Margaret St where a teacher is on duty. This is an important step in developing the girls' independence and self-regulation.

Arrival by Kiss and Ride

Follow the Kiss and Ride procedures. A staff member will walk your daughter from the car to the Lingwood gate where another staff member is on duty.

Dismissal

Collection on Foot

Collection on foot is available from 3:00pm - 3:10pm. Parents collecting children on foot should wait in the front playground of the Lingwood Campus. 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 at the dismissal times below.

2:30pm – 2:55pm	Pre-Kindergarten only. Kindergarten parents must not queue in Margaret St at this time.
3:00pm - 3:10pm	Kindergarten students who do not have siblings in Years 1 to 6.
3:10pm - 3:40pm	Kindergarten students with siblings in Years 1 to 6.

Junior School Kiss and Ride Procedures

The Kindergarten Kiss and Ride zone is in Margaret St.

Arrival

- Approach the Kiss and Ride zone from The Boulevard and stop your car where the teacher on duty in the orange vest is stationed near the Junior School Campus. Do not let your daughter get out of the car at the Lingwood Campus.
- Stay in your car and let the teacher help your child out of the vehicle.
- Ensure that your child leaves the car via the kerb-side door.
- Use your indicator and merge into the traffic lane.
- The teacher on duty will walk your child to the Lingwood Campus.

Pick up

- Display your daughter's name on a large sign on your sun visor.

- Approach Kiss and Ride from The Boulevard after 3:00pm. 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 teacher 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 these items:

- “crunch ‘n’ sip” – a small snack of fruit or vegetables;
- morning tea and lunch in containers that fit in the school bag;
- drink bottle of water;
- playground hat;
- Junior School Planner;
- Meriden jumper if the weather is cold;
- yellow raincoat.

There is no need to bring a pencil case as we supply stationery.

The Meriden Community

Meriden encourages parental involvement in a wide range of activities. We appreciate your support of our students through attendance at concerts, 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 a valuable 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, and 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 Pre-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, 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.

Excursions, Sport and Swimming Programs

Excursions

Students are involved in excursions (outside School) or incursions (at School) linked to the educational programs.

These activities are a 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 and incursion.

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 through a written application to the Head of Junior School. Medical certificates are usually required for exemption.

Sport and Cocurricular Programs

The School offers a wide range of sporting and cocurricular programs. Details of these are regularly made available through our newsletters. Registrations for 2025 activities will take place in Term 4, 2024.

Information will be emailed to all families before 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

Kindergarten lunches can be ordered online and the lunches are delivered to the classrooms just before lunch. Lunches must be ordered by 8:00am.

'Crunch 'n' Sip'

Girls should bring a small container of raw, bite-sized vegetables or fruit daily for a healthy snack 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 Camp Australia operates in The Cottage at the Junior School Campus.

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

- 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 separate strap. Some velcro examples are shown below.



- Summer socks must be the short, white fold-down style available at the Uniform Shop.
- Kindergarten 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 on the day of the one-hour PE lesson 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.
- Only plain stud earrings are permitted, and sleepers must not be worn for safety reasons. Studs may be plain silver, plain gold, or pearl.
- Watches must be small and plain. 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.

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: uniform@meriden.nsw.edu.au.

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 attend. 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**.
3. Follow the instructions as shown on the website.