

Welcome to Kindergarten



MERIDEN
AN ANGLICAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Welcome to Meriden



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Starting Kindergarten is an exciting milestone for every family.

As your daughter begins this new chapter, she will build on the foundations established in her early years while developing the confidence, independence and skills that will support her ongoing learning journey.

As a Christian school in the Anglican tradition, Meriden is committed to creating a supportive environment where every student is known, valued and encouraged to thrive. Through engaging learning experiences, strong relationships and a vibrant school community, we support each child to grow academically, socially and emotionally.

We believe that education flourishes when families and schools work in partnership. Together, we will encourage your daughter to develop curiosity, resilience, confidence and a genuine love of learning.

We are delighted to welcome your family to the Meriden community and look forward to partnering with you as your daughter begins her Kindergarten journey.

MRS LISA BROWN
Principal



I am delighted that you have chosen Meriden for your daughter's education.

One of the strengths of our Kindergarten program is our exceptional team of teachers, who create a warm and engaging environment where every child feels known, cared for and supported. We look forward to helping your daughter develop confidence, curiosity and a strong sense of belonging as she begins her Meriden journey.

The pages in this booklet introduce you to our learning program, routines and daily life in Kindergarten.

I look forward to meeting you and your daughter and welcoming your family to the Kindergarten community at Lingwood.

MRS CATH EVANS
Head of Junior School

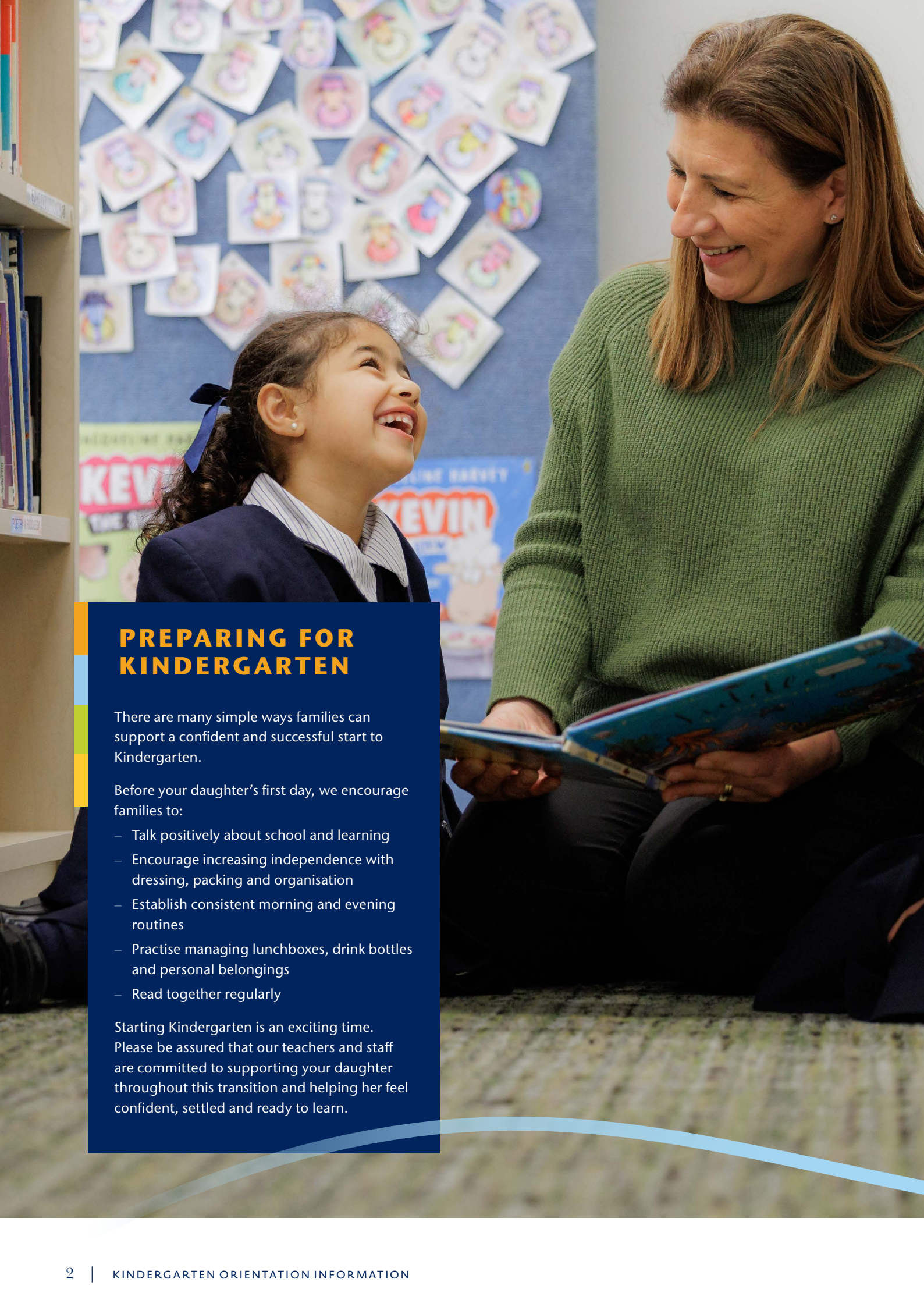
Beginning Your Kindergarten Journey

Kindergarten is a year of growth, exploration and connection. Our teachers will support your daughter as she establishes new routines, builds friendships and develops the confidence and independence that will help her thrive at school.

When your daughter begins Kindergarten, she will receive a Junior School Student Planner containing key information about routines, contacts, important dates and school events. This resource will help support your family throughout the year and is an important tool for communication between home and school.

Early in Term 1, families will also be invited to attend our Meet the Teacher Evening (Monday 1 February 2027). This is a valuable opportunity to meet your daughter's teacher, learn more about classroom life and ask any questions you may have about the year ahead.

Every child approaches the transition to Kindergarten differently. Some children quickly embrace new routines and experiences, while others may need a little more time to adjust. Our staff are experienced in supporting students through this important transition and will work closely with families to ensure every child feels safe, supported and valued.



PREPARING FOR KINDERGARTEN

There are many simple ways families can support a confident and successful start to Kindergarten.

Before your daughter's first day, we encourage families to:

- Talk positively about school and learning
- Encourage increasing independence with dressing, packing and organisation
- Establish consistent morning and evening routines
- Practise managing lunchboxes, drink bottles and personal belongings
- Read together regularly

Starting Kindergarten is an exciting time. Please be assured that our teachers and staff are committed to supporting your daughter throughout this transition and helping her feel confident, settled and ready to learn.



A Day in Kindergarten

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students learn at Meriden's Lingwood Campus, a dedicated early learning campus that is part of the Junior School.

This nurturing environment is designed specifically for younger learners, providing a strong foundation for their educational journey.

Kindergarten provides students with a structured and engaging learning environment that balances academic learning, creativity, movement, wellbeing and social connection.

Throughout the day, students participate in a variety of experiences including:

- Literacy learning
- Mathematics lessons
- Science
- Creative Arts
- Languages
- Music
- Physical Education
- Chapel and Christian Education
- Outdoor play
- Social and Emotional Learning
- Library and reading experiences
- Consistent class routines

Each day is designed to foster curiosity, independence and confidence while establishing strong foundations for future learning.

Refer to Page 17 for site map.

Learning and Growing at Meriden

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

Our hope is that, during this important first year of school, each child develops confidence, curiosity and a love of learning, while building a strong sense of belonging within the School community.

At the heart of learning at Meriden is The Fidelis Model, our Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12 Curriculum Framework. Developed using best-practice educational research, The Fidelis Model supports students to develop deep knowledge and understanding, strong learning dispositions, and the values and character needed to thrive in an ever-changing world.

The Fidelis Model provides a foundation for learning that encourages students to:

- Develop a strong understanding of the Christian values of hope, love, forgiveness and grace
- Build deep knowledge and understanding through meaningful learning experiences
- Become skilled communicators, resourceful learners and flexible thinkers
- Develop leadership capabilities, global awareness and a commitment to sustainability
- Foster resilience, reflection and generous participation in school and community life

Through engaging and purposeful learning experiences, students are encouraged to think deeply, ask questions, solve problems and develop the confidence to contribute positively to the world around them.



Subjects and Learning Experiences

Throughout their time in the Junior School, students enjoy a broad and enriching range of learning experiences designed to spark curiosity, foster creativity and build confidence.

In accordance with NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) requirements, Kindergarten students participate in learning across all key learning areas.



CLASSROOM LEARNING

Classroom teachers guide students through learning experiences in:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology
- Human Society and its Environment (HSIE)
- Creative Arts (Dance and Drama)
- Personal Development and Health



SPECIALIST LEARNING

Specialist teachers enrich the learning experience through programs in:

- Christian Education
- Languages (French and Chinese)
- Music
- PDHPE
- Visual Arts

CHAPEL AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

As a school in the Anglican tradition, Christian faith and values are woven throughout school life.

Weekly Chapel and Christian Education experiences support students' spiritual growth and encourage them to reflect on values such as kindness, gratitude, service, respect and compassion. These experiences form an integral part of the Junior School program and help nurture character alongside academic development.



SUPPORTING EVERY LEARNER

Every child brings her own strengths, interests, experiences and approach to learning. Teachers work collaboratively to design learning experiences that provide appropriate challenge, support and opportunities for growth.

Through differentiated teaching, learning is adapted to meet students' varying needs, enabling each child to make progress, experience success and grow in confidence as a learner.

The Learning Support Coordinator works in partnership with teachers and families to support students with additional learning needs, ensuring appropriate adjustments and support are in place where required.



Student Wellbeing and Support

At Meriden, we are committed to helping every student feel known, valued and supported as she develops confidence, resilience and a strong sense of belonging.

Our approach to social and emotional learning is guided by the CASEL framework, which focuses on five key areas:

Self-awareness	Recognising emotions, understanding strengths and developing confidence.
Self-management	Managing emotions, persisting with challenges and developing independence.
Social awareness	Demonstrating empathy, respect and understanding for others.
Relationship skills	Building positive friendships, communicating effectively and working collaboratively.
Responsible decision-making	Making thoughtful choices and learning from experiences.

The Dean of Pastoral Care works with class teachers, Coordinators and families to support the girls in their Social and Emotional Learning. The Junior School Counsellor provides additional support when required.

Excursions, Sport and Swimming Programs

Learning extends well beyond the classroom at Meriden. Throughout the year, students have opportunities to participate in excursions, incursions, sporting activities and cocurricular programs that enrich their learning and help them make meaningful connections with the world around them.

EXCURSIONS AND INCURSIONS

Excursions and incursions are valuable extensions of the Kindergarten learning program, providing students with authentic, hands-on experiences that bring classroom learning to life.

Students participate in a range of activities linked to their educational program, both at School and in the wider community. Parents will be advised of all excursions and incursions, and parental permission is required for off-site activities.

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students, the School prepares comprehensive risk assessments for every 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 conducted in the Senior School swimming pool.

Swimming lessons are an important and compulsory part of the curriculum, providing opportunities for students to develop water confidence, swimming skills and an understanding of water safety in a supportive environment.

There are no additional costs associated with the swimming program.

Exemptions from swimming are granted only in exceptional circumstances and require written application to the Head of Junior School. Medical documentation may be required to support such requests.

SPORT AND COCURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Sport and cocurricular activities play an important role in the life of the Junior School, supporting students' physical development, wellbeing, confidence and enjoyment of learning.

Throughout the year, students have opportunities to participate in a range of sporting and cocurricular programs that encourage teamwork, skill development, creativity and personal growth.

Information about available programs and participation opportunities will be communicated to families throughout the year via School communications and newsletters.

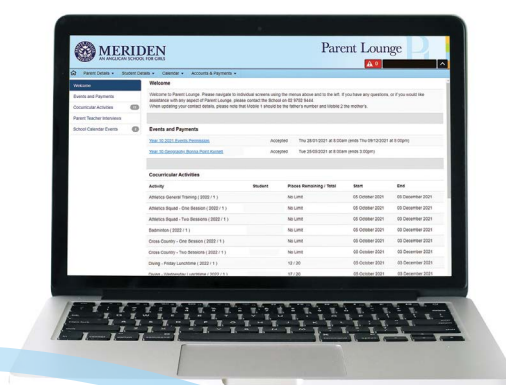
The Meriden Community

Meriden encourages parental involvement in a wide range of activities and values the strong partnerships that exist between home and school. We appreciate the many ways families support our students through attendance at music concerts, sporting activities, celebrations and special events throughout the year.

Our community enjoys a strong sense of connection and belonging, and we encourage families to become actively involved in the life of the School. These shared experiences help strengthen relationships and contribute to our vibrant community.

All correspondence regarding events and activities is provided through the Meriden App (or Parent Lounge via computer) and, where appropriate, by email. Parents are encouraged to direct any questions to the relevant staff member. While parent-run social media groups may provide opportunities for connection, they are not official channels of communication between the School and home, and families should not feel expected or pressured to participate.

Families are also welcome to become involved in a number of parent organisations and community groups. These groups make a valuable contribution to School life, support important initiatives and events, and help foster the strong sense of community that is central to the Meriden experience.



Parent Involvement

Junior School Community Involvement

There are many ways for families to be involved in the life of the Junior School. Opportunities range from attending community events and special celebrations to volunteering as a parent helper on excursions and other School activities.

We value the partnership between home and school and recognise the important role families play in enriching the learning experiences and sense of community enjoyed by our students.

Junior School Social Organisers

In the Junior School, a group of parents is appointed annually by the School to act as Social Organisers for each year group. Their role is to support the School by encouraging connections between other families in the year group by organising a couple of low-cost activities over the course of the year.

Please note: Information regarding School or classroom matters should always be sought directly from class teachers. Any concerns should be raised with your daughter's class teacher or the Kindergarten Coordinator, rather than with Social Organisers.

Junior School Auxiliary (JSA)

The Junior School Auxiliary (JSA) is primarily for parents of children in the Junior School, although anyone interested in supporting the School community is welcome to become involved.

The JSA organises a range of activities throughout the year, including family events, the Mother's Day Stall, Father's Day Breakfast and the Junior School Disco. The group also provides valuable fundraising support for the School and creates opportunities for families to connect and build community.

Parents and Friends Association (P&F)

The Parents and Friends Association (P&F) plays an important role in supporting the Meriden community through a range of events and initiatives throughout the year.

Major events coordinated by the P&F include the Mother's Day Breakfast, Father's Day Breakfast, catering at outdoor concerts and the annual Family Carols. These events strengthen connections within the School community and provide valuable opportunities for families to come together and celebrate school life.



Arrival

Kindergarten students should arrive at the Lingwood Campus between 8:00am and 8:20am.

Arriving within this time each day allows children to settle into classroom routines, connect with friends and begin the day feeling calm and confident. If you arrive after 8:25am, please speak with Reception via the intercom at the Lingwood gate. A staff member will assist with the sign-in process and accompany your daughter to her classroom.



At the beginning of the year, parents may choose to walk their daughter into the Lingwood playground, although Kiss and Ride or goodbyes at the gate is encouraged. Staff will warmly welcome her and assist her to her locker before helping her unpack and settle into the morning.

We understand that the transition to Kindergarten is an exciting milestone for families. While it can be tempting to linger, our experience shows that a warm, positive and confident farewell helps children settle more easily into the school day. Staff are always nearby to provide reassurance and support to any child who may need a little extra encouragement.

Morning Kiss and Ride Procedures

- 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.

Dismissal and Kiss and Ride

Collection on Foot

On foot collection 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.

On foot collection from Gate 11 is also available for students in Kindergarten to Year 2 and their siblings from 3:10pm to 3:20pm.

Margaret Street Kiss and Ride

Children travelling home by car should use the Margaret Street Kiss and Ride service during the following collection times:

2:30pm – 2:55pm	Kindergarten parents must not queue in Margaret St at this time – Pre-Kindergarten dismissal only
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

Kiss and Ride Procedures

The Kindergarten Kiss and Ride zone is located in Margaret Street.

- Display your daughter's name on a large sign placed on your car sun visor.
- Approach Kiss and Ride via The Boulevard after 2:30pm.
- If you arrive before your allocated collection time, or if the zone is full, please continue around the block and rejoin the queue when space becomes available.
- Pull into the kerb when directed and remain in your vehicle.
- A staff member will escort your daughter to your vehicle.
- Parents are responsible for securing their daughter safely in their car seat.
- Once your daughter is safely seated, indicate and rejoin the traffic flow, continuing along Margaret Street towards Redmyre Road.

Please note:

- There is no right turn from Margaret Street into Redmyre Road during arrival and dismissal times.
- Please do not stop or wait on Margaret Street outside the Senior School and observe all local parking and no stopping restrictions.

WHAT TO BRING EACH DAY

Your daughters school bag should contain:

- Crunch n Sip (a small snack of fruit or vegetables)
- Morning tea and lunch in containers that fit within the school bag
- A labelled bottle of water
- Playground hat
- Meriden jumper (when required)
- Junior School Student Planner
- Yellow raincoat

Please ensure all items are clearly named.
There is no need to bring a pencil case as we supply stationery.





Uniform

The Uniform Shop supplies all student uniforms except school shoes. Appointments should be made for all new students and they must attend their fitting. A full fitting takes approximately 30 to 45 minutes and appointments can be made online.

UNIFORM SHOP

Shop 1, 8–14 Lyons Street, Strathfield

Monday – Wednesday and Friday

8:00am – 4:00pm

Thursday

8:00am – 5:00pm

PHONE 9742 5173

meriden@focusuniforms.com.au

Children should bring their hat and yellow raincoat to school each day. As part of the Junior School's 'No Hat, No Play' practice, students must wear their hat during outdoor activities and playtimes.

- 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.
- Plain stud earrings or sleepers are permitted. Studs and sleepers may be plain silver, plain gold or pearl. Incorrect items will be removed at School and returned home.
- 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 hard hat must be worn to and from School each day.

Healthy Eating and Lunch Orders

Students enjoy a morning tea and lunch break each day. Families are encouraged to provide nutritious food that supports healthy growth, wellbeing and learning.

At Meriden, healthy eating is woven into everyday learning. Through experiences, conversations and daily routines, children are encouraged to develop positive habits, make healthy choices and develop an understanding of good nutrition.

As the School does not have facilities for heating lunches or providing cold storage, lunchboxes should fit comfortably inside your child's school bag and may include a cooler bag with a frozen drink or small freezer brick.

We encourage families to provide healthy foods such as fresh fruit, vegetables, cheese and nut-free health food bars.

To help keep all members of our community safe and minimise the risk for students with allergies, please do not include nuts or nut products in your child's lunchbox, including peanut butter, Nutella and muesli bars containing nuts.

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.

Canteen

For added convenience, families may also order lunch through the School's canteen service via Flexischools. Lunch orders must be placed before **8:00am** each day.

Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)

Meriden's Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) program is operated by Camp Australia and includes both Before School Care and After School Care services, located in The Cottage at the Junior School Campus.



Children enjoy a variety of engaging activities each day in a safe, welcoming and supervised environment. Breakfast is provided for children attending Before School Care, and afternoon tea is served during After School Care.

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.

We encourage all families to register with Camp Australia, even if you do not anticipate using the service regularly, as it can provide valuable flexibility when unexpected commitments arise.

BEFORE SCHOOL CARE

7:00am – 8:20am

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

3:00pm – 6:00pm (School days only)

CONTACT DETAILS

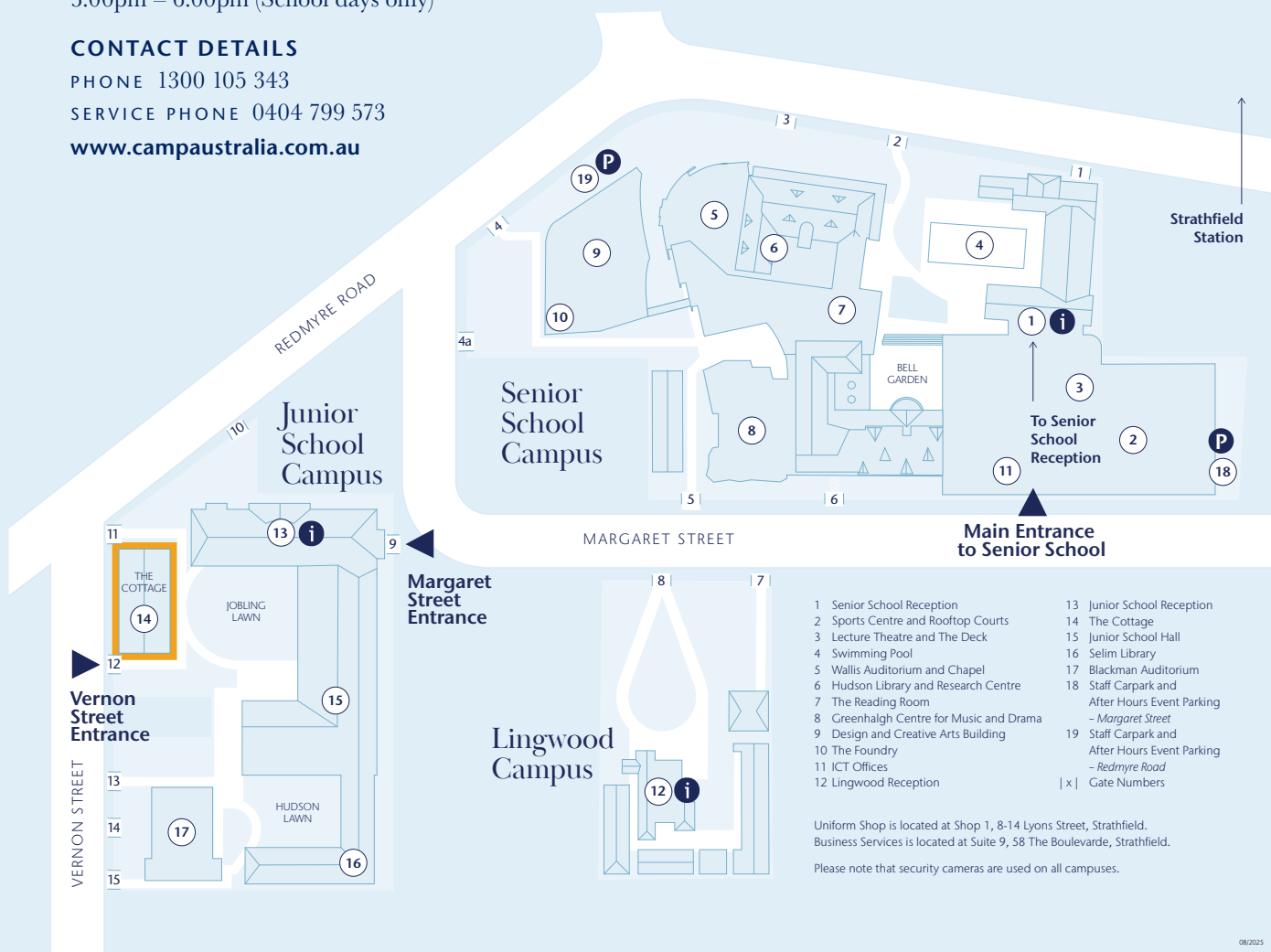
PHONE 1300 105 343

SERVICE PHONE 0404 799 573

www.campaustralia.com.au

Registration and Bookings

- All families are encouraged to register their child with Camp Australia, even if they do not intend to use the service regularly
- Enrolments, bookings and payments are managed directly through Camp Australia
- Online bookings and cancellations are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Please contact Camp Australia directly with any questions regarding the service



Lingwood Campus

▼ Margaret Street
Entrance

▼ Main
Entrance

Pre-Kindergarten

Kindergarten

COLA

RECEPTION

LIBRARY

STAFF
ROOM

KITCHEN

K ART
ROOM

K1

PK3

PK ART ROOM

PK2

PK1

K3

K2



WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU

The beginning of Kindergarten marks an exciting new stage in your daughter's learning.

Over the coming year, she will build on the foundations established in her early years, grow in confidence and independence, develop new friendships and discover the joy of learning in new and meaningful ways.

We are excited to partner with your family and look forward to supporting your daughter as she continues to learn, grow and thrive.

If you have any questions before the school year begins, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Welcome to the Meriden community.







TERM DATES 2027

Term 1

Thursday 28 January to Wednesday 9 April

Term 2

Tuesday 28 April to Friday 25 June

Term 3

Tuesday 20 July to Friday 24 September

Term 4

Pre-Kindergarten to Year 6

Tuesday 12 October to Tuesday 3 December

Years 7 to 11

Monday 11 October to Tuesday 3 December

CAMPUS INFORMATION AND KEY CONTACTS

LINGWOOD CAMPUS

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten
16 Margaret Street, Strathfield NSW 2135
Office Hours: 8:00am – 4:00pm
PHONE 9752 9488
juniorschool@meriden.nsw.edu.au

JUNIOR SCHOOL CAMPUS

Years 1 to 6
20 Margaret Street, Strathfield NSW 2135
Office Hours: 8:00am – 4:00pm
PHONE 9752 9417
juniorschool@meriden.nsw.edu.au

SENIOR SCHOOL

3 Margaret Street, Strathfield 2135
Office Hours: 8:00am – 4:30pm
PHONE 9752 9444
enquiries@meriden.nsw.edu.au

POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 78, Strathfield NSW 2135

www.meriden.nsw.edu.au



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