

Welcome to Pre-Kindergarten



MERIDEN
AN ANGLICAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Welcome to Meriden



CONTENTS

Preparing for the First Day	2
A Day in Pre-Kindergarten	3
Learning and Growing at Meriden	4
Literacy	5
Numeracy	6
Social and Emotional Development	7
Specialist Experiences	8
The Meriden Community	10
Parent Involvement	11
Arrival	12
Dismissal and Kiss and Ride	13
What to Bring Each Day	14
Uniform	15
Healthy Eating and Lunch Orders	16
Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)	16
Lingwood Campus	18
Term Dates 2027	21
Campus Information and Key Contacts	21

Starting Pre-Kindergarten is a significant milestone for every family.

As your daughter begins this exciting new chapter, she joins a community where discovery, friendship and learning are part of every day. We understand that this transition can bring a mix of excitement, anticipation and perhaps a few nerves too.

As a Christian school in the Anglican tradition, Meriden is committed to creating a nurturing environment where every child is known, valued and supported to flourish. Through rich learning experiences, caring relationships and a strong sense of community, we foster confidence, curiosity and a love of learning in every child.

We believe that education flourishes when families and schools work in partnership. Together, we will support your daughter as she settles into school life and grows in independence, character and capability.

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

MRS LISA BROWN
Principal



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

One of the things I value most about our Pre-Kindergarten program is the exceptional team who work with our youngest students. Their warmth, expertise and understanding of young children create a safe, settled and engaging environment where every child is known, cared for and supported as she begins her Meriden journey.

Every child arrives with her own strengths, interests and personality. Our hope is that, during your daughter's time in Pre-Kindergarten, she develops confidence, curiosity and a strong sense of belonging.

The pages in this booklet introduce you to our learning program, routines and daily life in Pre-Kindergarten. I look forward to meeting you and your daughter and welcoming your family to the Pre-Kindergarten community at Lingwood.

MRS CATH EVANS
Head of Junior School

Beginning Your Meriden Journey

The first few weeks of Pre-Kindergarten are an important time for children and families as they become familiar with new routines, build relationships and settle into school life.

To help make this transition as smooth as possible, we provide a range of resources and opportunities to keep your family informed and connected.

When your daughter commences, she will receive a Junior School Student Planner containing key information about routines, contacts, key dates and events throughout the year. The Planner is an important resource that will assist your family during the early weeks of school and beyond.

Early in Term 1, families will also be invited to attend our Meet the Teacher Evening (Monday 1 February 2027). This is a wonderful opportunity to meet the teaching team, learn more about the year ahead and ask any questions you may have as your daughter settles into school life.

Starting school is a unique experience for every child. Some children confidently embrace new routines from the first day, while others need a little more time to adjust. Both experiences are completely normal. Our staff are experienced in guiding children through this transition and will work closely with families to ensure every child feels safe, supported and valued.



PREPARING FOR THE FIRST DAY

There are many simple ways families can support a positive start to Pre-Kindergarten.

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

- Talk positively about school
- Read books about starting school
- Establish consistent morning and evening routines
- Encourage independence when dressing
- Practise opening lunchboxes and drink bottles
- Ensure all belongings are clearly labelled

Every child settles at her own pace. Please be assured that our teachers will work with your daughter and your family as she settles into Pre-Kindergarten.



A Day in Pre-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.

Every day in Pre-Kindergarten is intentionally designed to balance learning, discovery, creativity, movement and play. Children participate in a variety of experiences throughout the day, including:

- Morning welcome and classroom routines
- Literacy and numeracy learning
- Inquiry and project-based investigations
- Outdoor exploration and play
- Specialist lessons
- Storytelling and library activities
- Social learning and friendship building
- Reflection and home time

Our Pre-Kindergarten program provides opportunities for children to develop confidence, independence and a sense of belonging while fostering a genuine love of learning.

Refer to Page 17 for site map.

Learning and Growing at Meriden

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

At the heart of learning at Meriden is The Fidelis Model, our Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12 Curriculum Framework. Informed by best-practice educational research, The Fidelis Model nurtures deep learning, strong character and the dispositions children need to flourish throughout their educational journey and beyond.

The Pre-Kindergarten curriculum is designed to nurture children's natural curiosity and encourage them to actively engage with the world around them. Guided by The Fidelis Model, children are supported to build confidence, develop positive learning habits and establish strong foundations for future learning within a caring Christian environment. Children are involved in curriculum decision-making, and our learning environment is carefully designed to enable and empower them to work both independently and collaboratively.

Teachers plan meaningful and authentic learning experiences that encourage children to:

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| – Question | – Predict | – Speculate |
| – Discover | – Interpret | – Plan |
| – Investigate | – Wonder | – Test |
| – Explore | – Experiment | – Communicate |

We are committed to equipping children with the skills they need to become confident, capable learners. Through thoughtfully planned learning experiences, children are encouraged to think deeply about the world around them, make meaningful connections and respond to new learning with curiosity and confidence.

Our rich educational program focuses on developing children's pre-literacy and pre-numeracy skills, strengthening social development and extending their understanding of the world around them. Children are also introduced to the Christian values of hope, love, forgiveness and grace, which underpin life at Meriden and shape the development of character, relationships and belonging.

From Pre-Kindergarten through to Year 6, children are taught by specialist teachers in Music, Physical Education, Languages and Christian Education. Working in partnership with class teachers, our specialists bring expertise, passion and creativity to their subjects, opening up new ways for every child to explore, express herself and discover her strengths.

Collaboration between staff helps ensure that children's interests, ideas and initiatives are recognised and incorporated wherever possible, creating a learning environment that is both responsive and empowering.



LITERACY

Our literacy program is designed to build the foundational skills children need as they learn to read and write. Through engaging, structured learning experiences, children develop essential pre-reading skills including:

- Phonological awareness
- Oral language
- Vocabulary
- Listening comprehension
- Letter-sound knowledge

Using explicit and systematic instruction alongside interactive activities, the program supports all learners to become confident communicators and capable literacy learners.

Learning is further enhanced through a range of hands-on classroom literacy experiences, including games, sensory activities, literacy centres, storytelling and collaborative learning opportunities, allowing children to practise and apply their developing skills in meaningful and engaging ways.

By fostering a strong literacy foundation in the early years, the program supports a successful transition to formal reading instruction in Kindergarten.

NUMERACY

Learning in numeracy nurtures children's confidence, curiosity and capability in using mathematics to make sense of the world around them.

Recognising that children bring rich mathematical understandings through exploration and problem solving, our numeracy program invites children to engage, investigate and make meaningful connections between mathematics and their everyday lives.

Through explicit instruction, concrete materials, visual models and problem-solving opportunities, children develop foundational understandings of:

- Number
- Quantity
- Pattern
- Measurement
- Spatial awareness

Numeracy learning is enriched through mathematical thinking woven throughout daily learning, encouraging children to explain their thinking, communicate their ideas and deepen understanding.

By nurturing positive dispositions towards mathematics from an early age, the program supports all children to become capable problem-solvers, confident thinkers and lifelong learners as they transition to Kindergarten.





Social and Emotional Development

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

Self-awareness	Recognising feelings, and growing in confidence and a sense of who she is.
Self-management	Beginning to regulate emotions, persist with challenges and do things independently.
Social awareness	Showing kindness and empathy, and noticing how others feel.
Relationship skills	Making friends, taking turns, sharing and working together.
Responsible decision-making	Making thoughtful choices and learning from mistakes.

Teachers weave these skills into every part of the day, through play, routines, conversations and learning experiences, so children practise them naturally and often.

Celebrations and Special Events

Throughout the year, special events such as Book Week, Science Week, NAIDOC Week and Christmas celebrations bring learning to life. They help children grow in curiosity and compassion, and in their understanding of the wider world.

Specialist Experiences



LIBRARY

Library lessons give children the chance to explore the library, share in stories and develop a love of books. Students also develop confidence in selecting and borrowing books to take home.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Weekly Physical Education lessons with a specialist PE teacher focus on:

- Participation
- Gross motor development
- Hand-eye coordination
- Confidence
- Teamwork
- Ball skills
- Fun and active learning

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, movement and playing percussion instruments.

Children take pleasure in learning and performing songs and rhymes, which are often combined with movement activities. These practical experiences help develop rhythm, coordination and confidence, while also providing a foundation for exploring simple percussion instruments.

Students participate in listening and movement activities using music from a variety of styles. Through creative exploration and performance, they develop imagination, self-expression and an appreciation of music in a supportive and 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 occurs within a community that promotes respect for all its members, including those of other faith backgrounds.

During Pre-Kindergarten, Christian faith is experienced in both structured and informal ways throughout daily school life.

Meriden's Chaplain conducts weekly Chapel services, where students participate in singing, prayer and Bible stories that introduce key Christian themes and values. These themes are further explored through the Christian Education program, which helps children develop an understanding of who God is and the teachings of Jesus.

Through Chapel and Christian Education, students are encouraged to explore values such as kindness, gratitude, respect, compassion and service, helping to nurture both character and faith as they begin their school journey.

LANGUAGES

Meriden's French and Chinese programs introduce students to the sounds and rhythms of new languages through songs, stories, drama, games and conversation.

Language lessons aim to develop children's familiarity with different languages and cultures while building confidence in listening, speaking and responding. Children learn vocabulary relating to colours, numbers, greetings and rhymes, and are encouraged to use simple words and phrases in a fun and engaging environment.

Through rich, interactive experiences, students begin to develop an appreciation for language learning and cultural diversity from an early age.

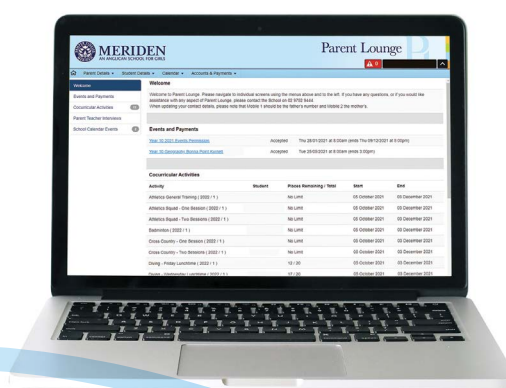
The Meriden Community

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 the vibrant community that makes Meriden such a special place.

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, including the Pre-Kindergarten program. 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 Pre-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.



A photograph of two young girls in school uniforms watering plants in a garden bed. The girl in the foreground is wearing a light blue polo shirt with a school crest and dark shorts. She is holding a green watering can and pouring water into a raised garden bed filled with soil and small green plants. Another girl is partially visible behind her, also watering. The background shows trees and a fence.

Arrival

Pre-Kindergarten students should arrive at the Lingwood Campus between 8:30am and 8:50am.

Arriving within this time allows children to settle comfortably into the day, connect with their teachers and classmates, and begin classroom activities feeling calm and confident.

If you arrive after 9:00am, please contact 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.

In Terms 1 and 2, parents are welcome to accompany their daughter to the classroom each morning. This allows children time to unpack their belongings, settle into the learning environment and ease into the school day. While saying goodbye can sometimes be difficult, our experience shows that a calm and positive farewell often helps children transition more smoothly. Staff are always available to provide reassurance and support if needed.

From Term 3, parents say goodbye at the top playground gate where a staff member will be on duty to welcome students and assist them as they make their way to class. This gradual transition encourages children to develop greater independence, confidence and self-regulation while still feeling supported and connected as they begin their day.

Dismissal and Kiss and Ride

Collection on Foot

Collection on foot is available from 2:30pm to 2:55pm. Parents who do not drive may 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 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	Pre-Kindergarten dismissal only
3:00pm – 3:10pm	Pre-Kindergarten students with siblings in Kindergarten
3:10pm – 3:40pm	Pre-Kindergarten students with siblings in Years 1 to 6

Kiss and Ride Procedures

The Pre-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

Please ensure your daughter's school bag contains the following:

- Morning tea and lunch in containers that fit within the school bag
- A labelled bottle of water
- Playground hat
- Meriden tracksuit jumper (when required)
- Junior School Student Planner
- Yellow raincoat

Please ensure all items are clearly named.





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 Uniform (Term 1 and Term 4)

- Meriden short sleeve polo shirt
- Meriden navy shorts
- White ankle socks
- White sports shoes

Winter Uniform (Term 2 and Term 3)

- Meriden long sleeve polo shirt
- Meriden navy track top
- Meriden navy track pants
- White ankle socks
- White sports shoes

More information including price lists and detailed uniform requirements can be found on our website.

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.

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 remaining at School after 2:55pm 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 – 8:45am

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

3:00pm – 6:00pm (School days only)

CONTACT DETAILS

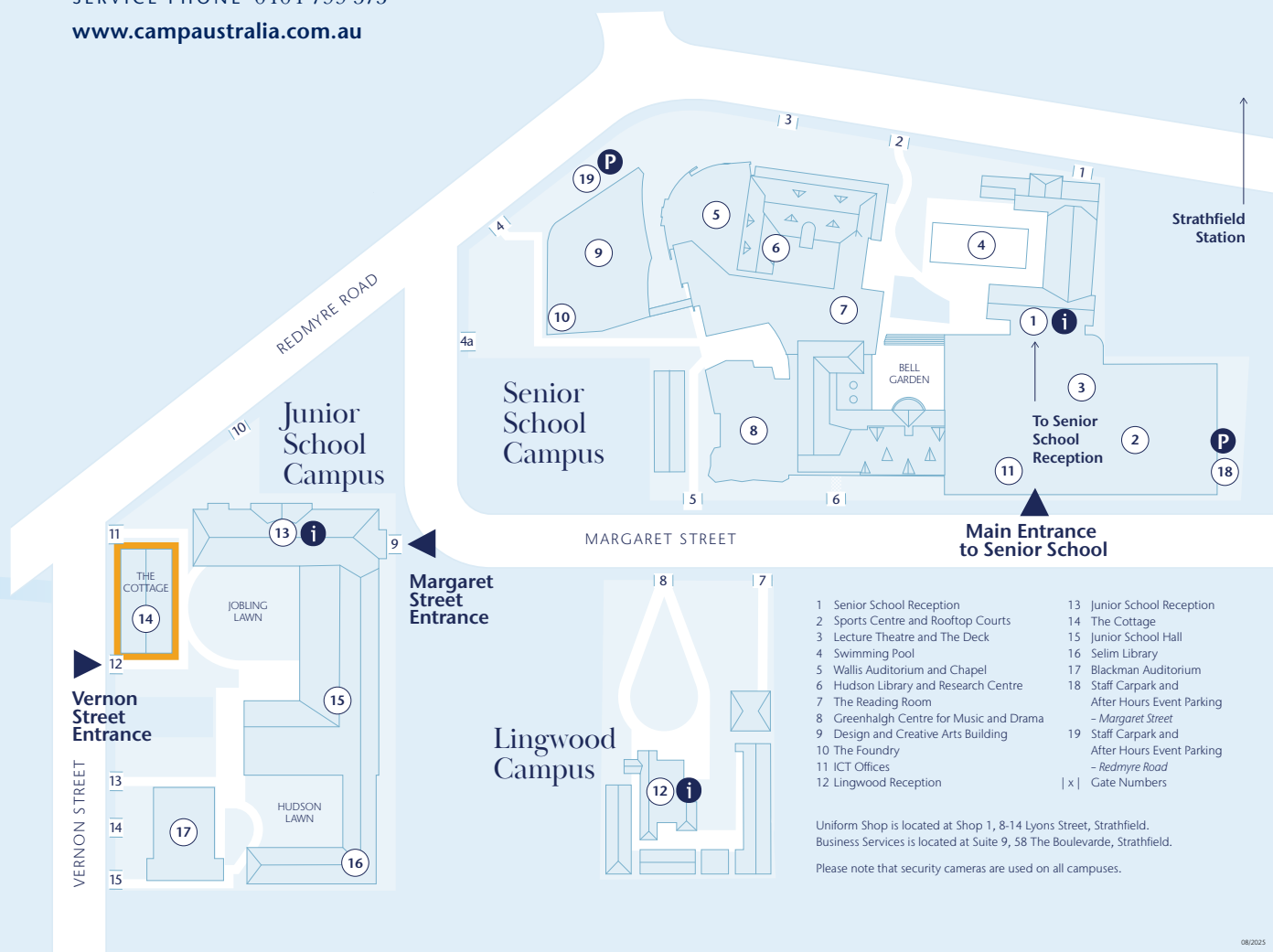
PHONE 1300 105 343

SERVICE PHONE 0404 799 573

www.campaustralia.com.au

Registration and Bookings

- 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 Pre-Kindergarten marks the start of a wonderful journey.

Over the coming year, our hope for your daughter is that she will build friendships, grow in confidence, discover new interests and develop a lifelong love of learning.

We are delighted to partner with your family and look forward to supporting your daughter as she begins this exciting new chapter.

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



MERIDEN
AN ANGLICAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

3 Margaret Street, Strathfield
NSW 2135 Australia
TELEPHONE 61 2 9752 9444
EMAIL enquiries@meriden.nsw.edu.au

www.meriden.nsw.edu.au
MERIDEN SCHOOL CRICOS NO. 02318F