



Welcome to
Junior School



MERIDEN
AN ANGLICAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Welcome to Meriden



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Starting school is an exciting milestone for every family.

As your daughter begins this new chapter, she becomes part of a caring and vibrant community where she is known, valued and encouraged to thrive. Whether she is joining us in Year 1 or entering another year level, we are committed to supporting her as she develops confidence, independence and a love of learning.

As a Christian school in the Anglican tradition, Meriden seeks to nurture each student's academic, social, emotional and spiritual growth. Through engaging learning experiences, meaningful relationships and a strong culture of care, we encourage every girl to discover her strengths, pursue her interests and contribute positively to the world around her.

We believe that education flourishes when families and schools work in partnership. Together, we will support your daughter as she develops curiosity, resilience, compassion and the skills she needs to thrive throughout her Junior School years and beyond.

We are delighted to welcome your family to the Meriden community and look forward to supporting your daughter as she learns, grows and thrives.

MRS LISA BROWN
Principal



The Junior School years are a time of significant growth as children develop confidence, deepen their learning and build a strong sense of belonging. At Meriden, we are committed to ensuring every student feels known, valued and supported as she settles into school life.

Our experienced staff work closely with students and families to help each girl develop confidence, independence and a love of learning. Through a broad range of academic, creative, sporting and cocurricular experiences, students are encouraged to discover their strengths, pursue their interests and contribute positively to the School community.

I look forward to welcoming your family and partnering with you throughout your daughter's Junior School journey.

MRS CATH EVANS
Head of Junior School

Beginning Your Junior School Journey

The Junior School years are a time when children grow in confidence, deepen their learning and develop a strong sense of belonging. As your daughter settles into Junior School at Meriden, she will build friendships, discover new interests, develop greater independence and learn more about herself and the world around her.

At the beginning of the school year, your daughter will receive a Junior School Student Planner containing important information about routines, contacts, key dates and school events. This resource supports communication between home and school and will help your family navigate the year ahead.

Every student approaches a new school experience differently. Some girls settle quickly into new routines and friendships, while others may take a little longer to feel fully comfortable. Our experienced staff work closely with students and families to ensure every girl feels supported, connected and confident as she transitions into life at Meriden.

Early in Term 1, families will also be invited to attend our Meet the Teacher Evening. This is a valuable opportunity to meet your daughter's teacher, learn more about classroom programs and gain an understanding of the learning experiences and opportunities planned for the year.

We encourage families to become actively involved in the School community through events, celebrations and parent groups. The strong partnership between students, families and staff is one of Meriden's greatest strengths, and we look forward to working together to make your daughter's Junior School experience a positive and rewarding one.



PREPARING FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

A positive and organised start to the school year helps students feel confident and ready to learn from day one. Before the start of term, we encourage families to:

- Ensure all uniform items and personal belongings are clearly labelled
- Check that your daughter has the items listed in this booklet for her year level
- Establish consistent morning and evening routines
- Encourage your daughter to take increasing responsibility for packing her school bag and managing her belongings
- Talk positively about the opportunities, friendships and learning experiences ahead
- Read School communications and download the Meriden App
- Become familiar with arrival and dismissal arrangements

Our teachers are experienced in supporting children through this transition and will work in partnership with families to ensure every child feels known and supported.



A Day in Junior School

The Junior School provides students with a rich and engaging learning experience that balances academic challenge, creativity, wellbeing, faith and community involvement.

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

- English
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology
- Human Society and its Environment (HSIE)
- Languages (French or Chinese)
- Music
- Visual Arts
- Dance and Drama
- PDHPE
- Chapel and Christian Education
- Library
- Leadership and service opportunities
- Camps, excursions and special events

Beyond the classroom, students have opportunities to build friendships, pursue their interests and become involved in the life of the School. These experiences help girls develop confidence, discover new strengths and strengthen their sense of belonging.

Each day in the Junior School is designed to inspire curiosity, nurture character and encourage every student to flourish academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

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).

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.

Teaching and Learning

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. Christian foundations of the School – hope, love, faithfulness and grace
2. Knowledge and understanding – developed through the learning environment, curriculum design and learning experiences
3. Learning practices – becoming skilled communicators, resourceful learners and flexible thinkers
4. Capabilities and competencies – global outlook, leadership and sustainability
5. Attitudes and values – valuing self and others, resilience, reflection and generous participation



LEARNING AREAS

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, PDHPE, Music and Language (French or Chinese) 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.



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.

A photograph of three young girls in school uniforms, smiling and looking upwards. The girl in the center is the most prominent, with her face in sharp focus. She has dark hair and is wearing a blue and white striped shirt under a dark blue jacket. To her left, another girl with glasses is partially visible, also smiling. To her right, a third girl is looking down, her face partially obscured. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting with trees. A dark blue rectangular box with a vertical bar of orange, light blue, and yellow on its left edge is positioned on the left side of the image, containing white text.

SUPPORTING EVERY LEARNER

Every child learns differently. Our teachers recognise that students develop at varying rates and bring different strengths, interests and experiences to the classroom.

Teachers plan learning experiences that provide appropriate support, challenge and opportunities for growth.

Through differentiated teaching each student is supported to make progress and experience success at their individual stage of development.

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

Teachers also work collaboratively with the Dean of Curriculum, Dean of STEM and Learning Support team to provide learning opportunities that enable every student to grow in confidence and achieve her best.



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.

Camps, Excursions and Swimming Programs

Learning extends well beyond the classroom at Meriden. Throughout the year, students have opportunities to participate in camps, excursions, incursions and swimming programs that enrich their learning, build confidence and encourage personal growth.

CAMP PROGRAM

Our annual camp program provides students with valuable opportunities to participate in safe and engaging outdoor education experiences that foster independence, resilience, teamwork and confidence. Camps are held in Term 4 each year, with overnight camps commencing in Year 4. Students in Year 6 participate in two camp experiences as part of the program. Camp costs are included in the School Resource Fee.

EXCURSIONS AND INCURSIONS

Excursions (outside School) and incursions (inside School) are valuable extensions of the 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. 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, COCURRICULAR AND EXTRACURRICULAR 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. The School offers a range of sporting, cocurricular and extracurricular opportunities designed to 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.

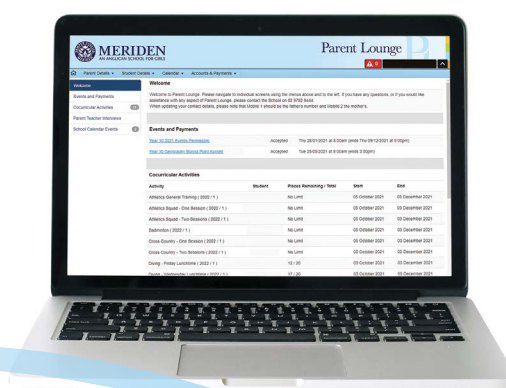
The Meriden Community

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 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. 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 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 selected 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

Students should arrive at School between 8:00am and 8:20am.

Students arriving before 8:00am must attend Before School Care.

To support a safe and efficient arrival, all students arriving by car should use the Kiss and Ride zones. There are always teachers on duty to assist students who may need some extra reassurance at the start of the day.

Students in Years 1 and 2 should use the Margaret Street Kiss and Ride zone, while students in Years 3 to 6 should use the Vernon Street Kiss and Ride zone.

Morning Kiss and Ride Procedures

- Stop where the teacher on duty is stationed
- Remain in your vehicle while staff assist your child from the car
- Ensure your child exits via the kerb-side door
- Indicate and merge safely back into the traffic flow

Parents who walk their children to School are asked to say goodbye at the gate to encourage independence and support a smooth start to the day.

Dismissal

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

Students travelling home by car should use the designated Kiss and Ride zones.

At dismissal, students wait in supervised collection areas as follows:

- The Breezeway, adjacent to the Margaret Street Kiss and Ride zone, for students in Years 1 and 2 and their siblings.
- The Blackman Auditorium, adjacent to the Vernon Street Kiss and Ride zone, for students in Years 3 to 6 who do not have siblings in Pre-Kindergarten to Year 2.

On Foot Collection

- On foot collection from Gate 11 is available for students in Kindergarten to Year 2 and their siblings from 3:10pm to 3:20pm.
- On foot collection from Gate 12 is available for students in Years 3 to 6 from 3:10pm to 3:20pm.
- Gate Passes Gate passes are available for students in Years 5 and 6 who need to leave the School grounds independently. Please email Junior School Reception if your daughter requires a gate pass.

Afternoon Kiss and Ride Procedures

- Display your family name on a large sign placed on your car sun visor.
- Arrive after 3:10pm.
- Pull into the kerb when directed and remain in your vehicle.
- A teacher will assist your daughter into the car.
- If the zone is full, continue around the block and rejoin the queue when space becomes available. Please do not block traffic on Margaret Street, Vernon Street or Redmyre Road.
- Indicate before re-entering the traffic flow and continue along the street.
- Never double park or perform U-turns or three-point turns within school zones.
- Always follow the directions of staff supervising the Kiss and Ride zones.
- Show courtesy to other drivers and remain patient during busy periods.

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

Students who have not been collected by 3:40pm will be taken to After School Care in The Cottage. All families are encouraged to register with Camp Australia.

WHAT TO BRING EACH DAY

Students should arrive in their summer uniform, wearing their Meriden hat, and bring a school bag containing:

- 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
- Junior School Planner
- Meriden jumper (if required)
- Yellow raincoat

Pencil cases / Stationery

- Years 3 to 5: Students should bring their own stationery. A standard pencil case will be provided by the School.
- Year 6: Students should bring their own stationery and pencil case.

Please ensure all items are clearly named.

MOBILE PHONES AND SMARTWATCHES

Junior School students are not permitted to use mobile phones or smartwatches while on campus or when travelling on Meriden buses for sport and other school activities.

As a general rule, we discourage students from bringing mobile phones or smartwatches to school. If a student needs to bring a device, it must be signed in at Reception upon arrival and collected at 3:10pm.

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 socks must be the short, white fold-down style available at the Uniform Shop.
- 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.

The summer uniform is usually worn throughout Term 1 and Term 4; the winter uniform is usually worn throughout Terms 2 and 3. More details, price lists and specific requirements can be found on our website.

Healthy Eating and Lunch Orders

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

Throughout the year, staff engage children in experiences, conversations and routines that promote healthy lifestyles and develop an understanding of good nutrition.

As the School does not have facilities for heating lunches or cold storage, lunchboxes may include a cooler bag with a frozen drink or small freezer brick and should fit comfortably inside your child's school bag. We encourage families to provide healthy foods such as fresh fruit, vegetables, cheese and nut-free health food bars.

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

Canteen

Families also have the option of ordering lunch through the School's canteen service via Flexischools. Lunch orders must be placed before 8:00am each day.

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 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 are required 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 – 8:45am

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

3:00pm – 6:00pm (School days only)

CONTACT DETAILS

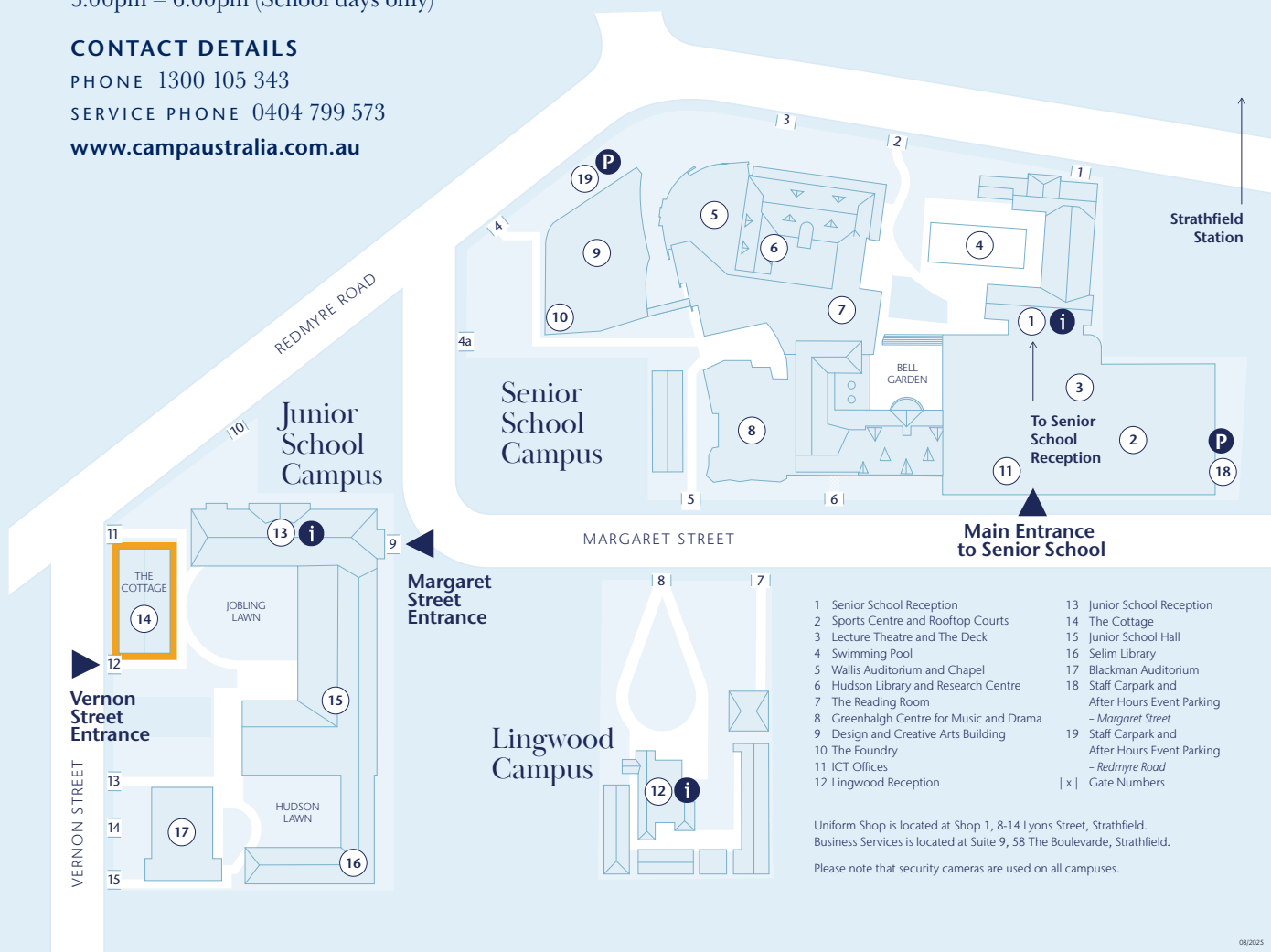
PHONE 1300 105 343

SERVICE PHONE 0404 799 573

www.campaustralia.com.au

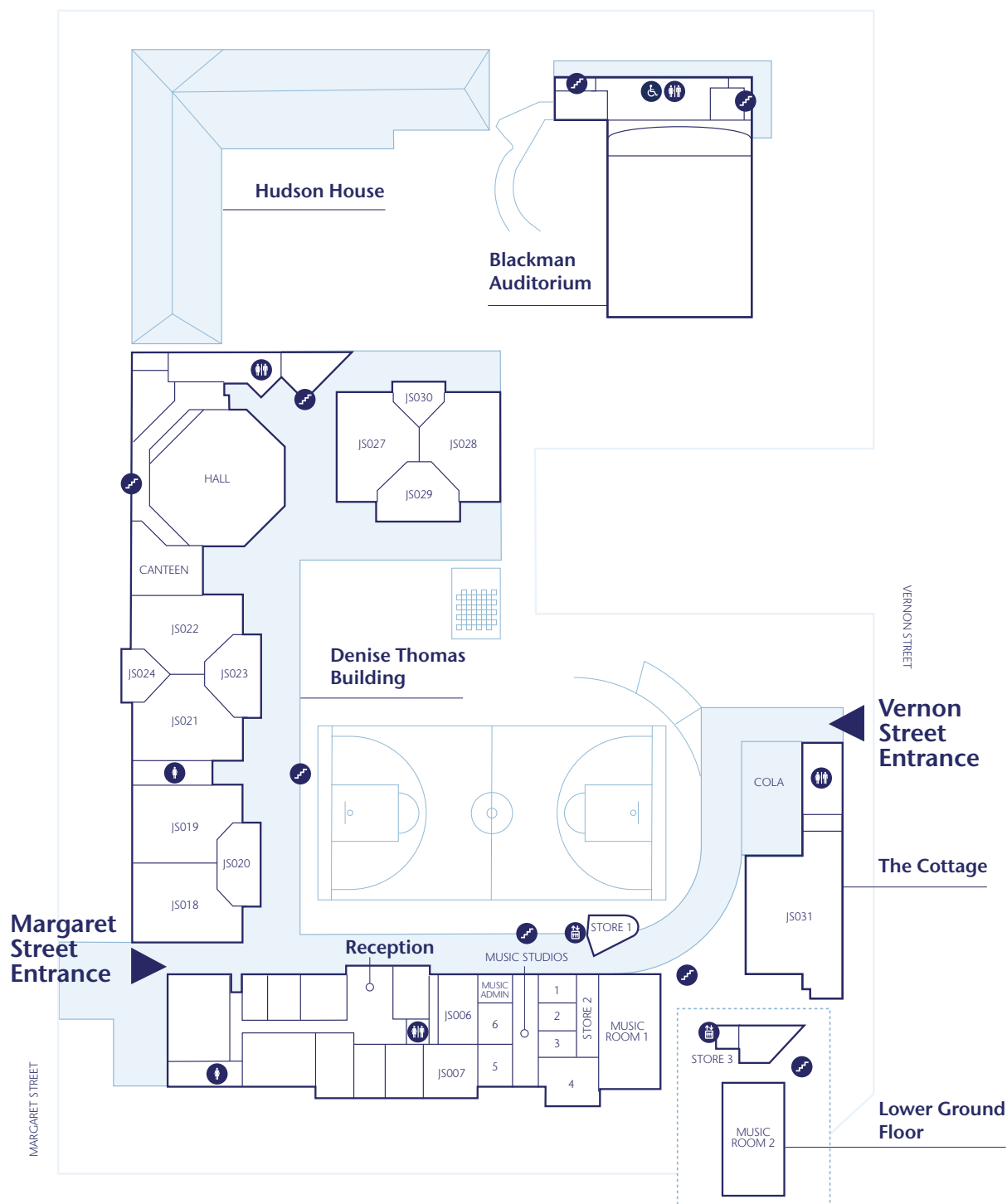
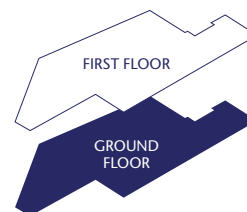
Registration and Bookings

- 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



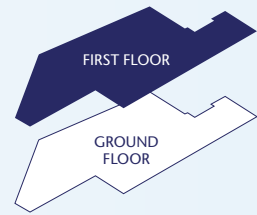
Ground Floor

Junior School
Campus



First Floor

Junior School
Campus





WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU

Our hope for your daughter is that she quickly feels at home at Meriden, develops strong friendships, discovers her strengths and grows in confidence as a learner and community member.

We look forward to getting to know your family and supporting your daughter.

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



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

Welcome to the Meriden community.



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