



TORRES STRAIT KAZIW META

BOARD AND FAMILY INFORMATION



Welcome to Torres Strait Kaziw Meta

Torres Strait Kaziw Meta provides a culturally unique boarding experience to grow proud and confident Torres Strait Islander leaders of the future. We are committed to ensuring all boarders feel safe, supported, and connected to their culture while achieving academic and personal success.

Kaziw Meta is a unique and special place where kids from the Torres Strait come to live and learn together. For generations, many of your family members may have stayed at Kaziw Meta, and now it's your turn to carry on that legacy and make your family proud.

During your time here, you'll have so many fun experiences, make lifelong friends, and create memories that will stay with you forever. From cultural activities to exciting outings, there's always something to look forward to.

It's completely normal to feel nervous or homesick at first—most boarders do! But once you settle into the routine and start enjoying the activities, you'll feel more comfortable, in control, and confident.

We are so excited to get to know you, support you on your educational journey, and be a part of this important chapter in your life. Welcome to the Kaziw Meta family!



Artwork by
George Gabey

Boarding House Details and Contact Information

Kaziw Meta is home to several boarding houses, each fostering a sense of family and community.

Waiwi Meta

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Puwa Moto

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Vision

Through a culturally unique and 'on-country' boarding experience, we grow Torres Strait Islander children in Years 7-12 to be proud, confident, and prepared for their future.

Mission

To be acknowledged nationally as the experts in growing culturally-connected Torres Strait Islander leaders of the future.

Our Values

Respect

Honouring the traditions, cultures, and identities of our boarders.

Trust

Building reliable and honest relationships within our community.

Pride

Encouraging boarders to take pride in their heritage and achievements.

Care

Providing a nurturing and supportive environment for all boarders.

Honesty

Promoting transparency and integrity in all our actions.

Reliability

Ensuring consistent and dependable support for our boarders.

Culture

Integrating cultural traditions and practices into daily life.

Fun

Creating an enjoyable and enriching boarding experience.

House Parents' Role and Duty of Care

House parents are the heart of the boarding program. Their role includes:

- **Ensuring boarders' safety, wellbeing, and happiness at all times.**
- **Providing guidance, support, and mentorship.**
- **Overseeing boarders daily routines, including attendance at school and participation in boarding activities.**
- **Responding to any concerns or issues raised by boarders, including sickness, emotional challenges, or homesickness.**
- **Acting as a trusted adult who boarders can turn to for advice or help.**



House parents work closely with families to ensure boarders have a positive and fulfilling experience at Kaziw Meta.

Boarding House Daily Schedule

Monday to Friday

7:00 am	Wake up and showers
7:30 am	Breakfast (continental)
8:00 am	Clean kitchen/wash dishes/clean outside area
8:35 am	Out the gate (Correct uniform/Close-in shoes/School bag & equipment)
8:45 am	Bell rings for school (PC)
11:20 am	Snacks/lunch dropped to school by Kaziw
2:50 pm	School finishes
3:00 pm	Afternoon Tea (must be ready on the table)
3:30 - 4:30 pm	Study Time
4:30 - 6:30 pm	Recreational Activities - Sport, Arts/Crafts, Socialising, Life Skills, etc.
6:30 pm	All Boarders In-House - Showers
7:00 pm	Dinner
7:45 - 8:15 pm	Relaxing in Courtyard or in-house
8:30 pm	Get Ready for bed
9:00 pm	Lights out

Friday Night

7:00 pm	Dinner (waterfront if possible)
9:00 pm	All boarders return to their own house

Saturday

8:00 am	Wake up
8:30 am	Breakfast
9:30 - 10:30 am	Duties in-house
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Town Shopping
12:30 pm	Lunch
2:30 - 6:30 pm	All Boarding House's Activities (no phones)
6:30 pm	All Boarders in-house and showers
7:00 pm	Dinner
7:30 pm	All Houses Activity
9:30 pm	All borders inside the house
10:00 pm	Lights out
	*Island trips (three times per term)

Sunday

8:00 am	Wake up /Shower/Prep for church
8:30 am	Breakfast
9:30 am	Church
11:30 am	Return from church
12:30 pm	Lunch
2:30 - 6:00 pm	All Boarding House's Activities
6:00 pm	All Boarders in-house and showers
7:00 pm	Dinner (Culture Dinner – Week 1, 5 and 9)
7:30 pm	Free time/ Relax (Courtyard)
8:30 pm	All boarders return to their own house
9:00 pm	Lights out

Reach, Leave, and Signing In and Out

Boarders must use the Reach system to manage their leave and notify house parents when leaving or returning to the boarding house.

Signing In and Out

- Boarders must sign out before leaving the premises and sign in upon return.
- Leave requests must be approved in advance by parents/guardians through the Reach system. We ask leave to be in by Thursday if possible.

Following these processes ensures the safety and accountability of all boarders.

Study and Tutoring/Career Program

Kaziw Meta offers a structured and supportive academic program designed to help boarders excel in their studies.

- A **full-time teacher** is available on-site to assist with assignments, exam preparation, and learning strategies.
- Dedicated **tutors** visit Kaziw Meta regularly to provide additional support tailored to each boarder's needs.
- Study sessions are held daily, with boarders allocated quiet and focused time in See Kee House or in-house to complete schoolwork.
- Dedicated career and learn to drive staff members.

Healthy Living: Body, Mind, and Spirit

Boarders are encouraged to maintain a healthy lifestyle to thrive physically, mentally, and spiritually:

- **Good Sleep:** Aim for 8-9 hours each night to feel rested and focused.
- **Personal Hygiene:** Shower daily, wear clean clothes, and practice good grooming habits.
- **Eating Well:** Focus on nutritious meals provided at Kaziw Meta and limit junk food.
- **Physical Activity:** Participate in daily activities and sports to stay active and energised.
- **Mental and Spiritual Health:** Engage in cultural practices, stay connected with family, and seek support from staff when needed.

Community Living Expectations

Respect and Responsibility

Living in a community requires respect for yourself, others, and the facilities:

- Keep your room tidy and contribute to daily chores.
- Maintain privacy and avoid entering other boarders' rooms without permission.
- No harmful items, such as sharp objects, are allowed in rooms.
- Treat the boarding house facilities and common spaces with care.

Prohibited Items

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of all boarders, the following items are strictly prohibited at Kaziw Meta. These rules are in place to maintain a secure and harmonious environment for everyone.

Prohibited Items

1. Knives and Sharp Objects:

- Includes pocket knives, scissors, or any items that could be used as a weapon or pose a danger.

2. Deodorant Cans and Aerosols:

- Aerosol sprays are not allowed as they can cause respiratory irritation and safety concerns. Use roll-on deodorants instead.

3. Ropes and Straps:

- Any items that could be misused to cause harm to oneself or others are not permitted.

4. Harmful Objects:

- Includes any items that could be used to injure, threaten, or endanger others or oneself.

5. Other Restricted Items:

- Explosives, fireworks, lighters, or any dangerous materials.
- Illegal substances, vaping devices, smoking paraphernalia, and alcohol.

CONSEQUENCES FOR BRINGING PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Immediate confiscation of the item.
- Parents/guardians will be notified.
- Disciplinary action, which may include suspension, depending on the severity of the situation.

Our Commitment

Kaziw Meta prioritises the safety of all boarders. We ask for everyone's cooperation in adhering to these rules to ensure the boarding community remains a secure and supportive place to live and learn. If the management believe it is necessary, staff will conduct searches of the rooms to ensure there are no prohibited items.

Town Shopping and Budgeting

Boarders participate in supervised town shopping trips to purchase essential items.

- **Essentials Only:** Focus on necessities like toiletries and school supplies; avoid buying junk food.
- **Managing Money:** Boarders are encouraged to budget wisely and learn the importance of saving.

Mobile Phone Policy Torres Strait Kaziw Meta Inc.

Boarders are permitted to bring mobile phones to Kaziw Meta under the following conditions:

1. Registration and Declaration

- Boarders must declare their mobile phones upon arrival.
- If a boarder has more than one phone, all phones must be declared.
- All mobile phone numbers must be registered with the office or houseparents.

2. Use During College Events and Activities

- Phones must be handed in during certain college events when requested by staff.
- Phones will be distributed only during nominated times.
- Mobile phones are prohibited at:
 - The dinner table.
 - Church or fellowship activities.
 - Home study periods.
 - Meal times.
 - Courtyard dinners with guest speakers.
 - Meetings, assemblies, or any time requiring full attention.

3. Weekend Leave

- Boarders may take their mobile phones when going on weekend leave.

4. Non-Compliance and Consequences

If a boarder refuses to hand in their phone at the correct time, the following actions will apply:

- **First Instance:** The phone will be confiscated for 24 hours.
- **Second Instance:** The phone will be confiscated for 7 days, and parents will be notified.
- **Third Instance:**
 - The phone will be confiscated until the end of term.
 - Parents will be notified, and the phone will be posted home.
- **Concealing Phones:** If a boarder conceals their phone, it will be confiscated until the end of the term, and they will not be allowed to bring a phone for the following term.

5. Inappropriate or Illegal Use

Gross misuse of mobile phones, including but not limited to cyberbullying, sexting, or sharing inappropriate images, will result in:

- Immediate confiscation of the phone.
- Notification to parents.
- A police report being filed.
- The boarder will lose the privilege to bring or use a phone for the remainder of the school year.

6. Additional Guidelines

Staff will make every effort to resolve and manage any mobile phone issues.

Alternative arrangements may be requested and approved by the Head of Boarding (HOB), depending on the individual needs of the student.

Disclaimer

Kaziw Meta management is not responsible for replacing lost, stolen, borrowed, or damaged phones, SIM cards, or chargers.

Mobile Phone Usage at Kaziw Meta

At Kaziw Meta, we have designated specific times for boarders to use their mobile phones. This approach is designed to encourage participation in activities, foster stronger social connections, and reduce reliance on technology.

We understand the importance of staying connected with family and friends and the value of not missing out on key moments. However, our priority is to promote an active and healthy lifestyle among our boarders. By limiting phone access, we aim to remove the

temptation of constant phone use and instead encourage our students to focus on personal growth, community involvement, and physical activity.

Our goal is to create a balanced environment where students can stay connected without letting technology dominate their daily lives. This balance supports their overall well-being and prepares them for a future of mindful and responsible technology use.

Monday to Thursday

- 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Friday

- 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Saturday

- 10:30 am – 2:30 pm
- 8:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Sunday

- 11:30 am – 2:30 pm
- 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Behaviour Expectations

Kaziw Meta expects all boarders to display respectful and responsible behaviour at school and in the boarding house.

At School

- Attend classes punctually and participate actively.
- Wear the full school uniform, including enclosed shoes, daily.

In the Boarding House

- Treat house parents, staff, and fellow boarders with respect.
- Follow daily routines and participate in activities.

Behaviour, Suspensions, and Enrolment Review

At Kaziw Meta, we are committed to providing a safe, respectful, and nurturing environment for all boarders. Positive behaviour and adherence to the rules are essential to ensure the wellbeing and success of the entire boarding community. While we aim to support every boarder to overcome challenges, repeated or severe breaches of the rules may result in suspension or withdrawal of enrolment.

Suspensions

- A boarder may be suspended from Kaziw Meta if their behaviour poses a risk to themselves, others, or the harmonious operation of the boarding house.

- Families will be informed immediately of the suspension, and it will be their responsibility to:
 - Arrange for the boarder to stay with family on Thursday Island during the suspension, or
 - Cover the cost of flights for the boarder to return home.

Note: ABSTUDY does not cover flights for suspended boarders.
- Suspended boarders are not permitted to stay at Kaziw Meta during their suspension period.

Re-Entry After Suspension

- Following a suspension, a boarder may re-enter Kaziw Meta under specific conditions:
 - A re-entry meeting is held with the boarder, their family, and staff to discuss expectations moving forward.
 - The boarder must agree to adhere to a Behaviour Support Plan (if applicable) designed to help them reintegrate successfully into the boarding community.
 - The boarder is expected to demonstrate a commitment to improving their behaviour and following the rules.

Continued Defiance and Withdrawal of Enrolment

- If a boarder continues to exhibit defiant or disruptive behaviour after re-entry, Kaziw Meta reserves the right to review their enrolment.
- This process may involve:
 - Ongoing discussions with the boarder and their family.
 - Consideration of the impact of the boarder's behaviour on others within the community.
- If improvement is not evident and the behaviour persists, the boarder's enrolment may be withdrawn.



Our Commitment

While these measures are necessary to maintain the wellbeing of all boarders, Kaziw Meta is committed to working collaboratively with families to address behavioural challenges and provide support wherever possible. Our aim is always to guide boarders towards positive outcomes and help them grow into respectful and responsible individuals.

If a Boarder is Sick

Boarders who feel unwell must notify a house parent immediately.

- Depending on the situation, the boarder may rest at the boarding house or be taken to the doctor or hospital.
- Families will be informed of any significant health concerns.

Leadership and Boarders' Council

Kaziw Meta encourages boarders to take on leadership roles and contribute to the community.

Opportunities to Get Involved

- Join the **Boarders' Council** to represent peers and share ideas for improving the boarding program.
- Become a **House Leader / Captain** and represent Kaziw Meta Community in forums.
- Take part in leadership initiatives that build confidence and help shape the boarding experience for everyone.

Exciting Programs and Activities

Cultural Programs

Kaziw Meta offers a vibrant cultural program that allows boarders to stay connected to their heritage. This includes traditional dance practices, song, storytelling, art workshops, and the preparation of traditional foods. Boarders will also have opportunities to showcase their talents at community events and celebrations like NAIDOC Week.

Fun Activities

- Weekly rewards for positive behaviour.
- Reward camps for exceptional conduct.
- Island trips to explore different Torres Strait cultures.
- Bike rides around the island.
- Fishing Competitions.
- Arts and Crafts activities.
- Traditional activities such as weaving.

- Dance Team performances and competitions.
- Gardening and garden beds.
- Outdoor BBQ.
- Dance Practice.
- Touch Football, Volleyball, Basketball, AFL, etc
- Access to multiple board games, books, and computers.

Career and Work Experience

Kaziw Meta actively encourages boarders to engage in work experience and part-time employment. A dedicated staff member works closely with boarders to arrange placements, drop-offs, and pick-ups. These opportunities help boarders build valuable skills and prepare for their future careers.

Driver Learners Program

Through the Driver Learners Program, boarders from outer islands can complete their learner's permit and work towards obtaining their driver's licence while staying at Kaziw Meta. Staff support boarders with practice, scheduling, and meeting the requirements for this milestone.

Bus Rules for Boarders

To ensure a safe and clean environment, the following rules must be followed when riding the bus:

1. No Eating

- Eating is not allowed on the bus.
- Take all rubbish with you when leaving the bus.

2. Seatbelts

- Seatbelts must be worn at all times during the trip.

3. Cleanliness

- Assist staff in checking that the bus is clean and tidy after each use.
- Use a broom and dustpan to remove sand and dirt from the bus floor.

4. Damage Reporting

- Notify staff immediately about any damage to the bus after each use.

5. Bus Washing

- Staff will supervise boarders when washing the bus.

Following these rules helps keep the bus safe, clean, and ready for use by all boarders and staff.



Items Required for Boarding and School

Items Families Need to Provide for Boarding

- 7 sets of day clothes
- 10 pairs of underwear
- 2 sets of pyjamas or bedclothes
- 2 towels (one for swimming and one for bathing)
- Floral dress or floral shirt for church
- Thongs and casual shoes
- Sufficient toiletries (including sanitary items)
- Hairbrush/comb and toothbrush
- Favourite soft toy
- Photos of home
- Items to decorate the room
- Best smile and manners for staff and fellow boarders.

Items Families Need to Provide for School

- 2 pairs of school shoes
- 1 school bag/backpack
- 10 pairs of socks
- 2 water bottles
- Good manners and family expectations for behaviour at school.

What Kaziw Meta Provides

- A start-of-year book pack (families will supply additional school equipment throughout the year).
- School uniforms provided twice a year (families will replace damaged uniforms).
- Pillows, sheets and blankets

Alcohol, Vaping, Drugs, and Smoking Policy

The possession, use, or distribution of alcohol, vapes, drugs, and smoking materials is strictly prohibited.

Prohibited Substances

- Alcohol: No consumption or possession is allowed.
- Vapes and Smoking: Prohibited on Kaziw Meta property.
- Drugs: Illegal substances are not allowed; prescribed medications must be registered with staff.

Consequences

- Confiscation of prohibited substances.
- Parental notification and documented incidents.
- Disciplinary action, including possible suspension or expulsion.

Bicycle Policy

- Complete the bicycle registration form before use.
- Bikes must be stored in designated areas after use.
- Helmets and enclosed shoes must be worn at all times while riding.





Contact Us

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