

Parents' Handbook



**Introductory
Information**

OUR LADY OF SION SCHOOL



MISSION STATEMENT

The Congregation of Sion is a Catholic foundation, which works to foster mutual understanding between people of different religious and cultural traditions, through its communities in twenty-four countries of the world. The role of education in this work is vital.

Our Lady of Sion School aims to help young people of all faiths to reach their highest potential in a caring atmosphere. Each boy and girl is encouraged to develop through all aspects of the school curriculum.

We encourage staff and students to engage in the wider community and to address issues vital to the future well-being of our society and the whole world, fostered in a climate that is permeated by the teachings of the Bible.

The School's ethos is:
CONSIDERATION ALWAYS

HISTORY OF OUR LADY OF SION SCHOOL

The Congregation was founded 'to witness in the Church and in the world that God continues to be faithful in love for the Jewish people and to hasten the fulfilment of the promises concerning the Jews and the Gentiles'.

Theodore Ratisbonne was born in Strasbourg in 1802 into a Jewish family that was in the process of being assimilated. He grew up in an atmosphere of learning and affection, but where religion did not play a significant part. 'Religion was repugnant to me, my own and all other religions.' Then one day a prayer arose out of his confusion: 'Oh God, if you really exist, let me know the truth, and I swear to consecrate my life to it'.

The teaching of Louis Bautain, a young philosophy professor who drew on the Scriptures in his studies, gradually set Theodore on the path of discovery of the Bible and he was baptised at the age of twenty four. Throughout his life as a Christian, and later as a priest, the Word of God inspired him and he was called to apostolic life, a call that was fulfilled only fifteen years later.

On 20 January 1842, his younger brother Alphonse also decided to become a Christian after Mary appeared to him in a vision in Rome. In the light of the Word of God, Theodore was able to interpret this sign from Mary and, encouraged by his brother, founded the congregation of Our Lady of Sion in 1843. In 1852, he gathered together the first small group of what was to become the men's Congregation of the Religious Order of Our Lady of Sion.

Our school in Worthing was founded in 1862 and is one of several Sion schools situated around the world. Its aim is to foster bridge-building and tolerance and it welcomes pupils from all faiths and ethnic backgrounds. In the years following its establishment the Sisters of Sion played a key role in its development and then, in 1984, the first lay Head was appointed, Mr. Brian Sexton. Co-education was introduced and Sion is one of the very few schools in the UK offering a complete education, for both sexes, between the ages of 2½ and 18.

In September 2000 Mr. Michael Scullion took over as Headmaster and since that time the school has undergone three successful inspections regulated by the Independent Schools Inspectorate. The school is a member of SHMIS - the Society of Headmasters and Headmistresses of Independent Schools - and ISA - the Independent Schools' Association.

DAILY/WEEKLY ROUTINE

School begins at 8.45 a.m. The School is open from 8.00 a.m.

When pupils arrive in School, they should first visit their locker to deposit their blazer or coat and to collect books. Pupils should then go to their Form Room for registration.

Pupils who arrive early for School are permitted to play on the Astroturf/ courts, or may wait quietly in the Form Room. (Note: Only trainer type soled shoes are to be used on the Astroturf, i.e. no spikes, no blades, no metal studs).

On Monday and Friday there is normally a full School Assembly. Pupils are shown the route they should take to the Hall.

After Assembly (at 9.00 a.m. approximately): Pupils return to their Form Rooms to collect their books for the first two periods.

Late Arrival (Mondays and Fridays)

Pupils who arrive after 8.45 a.m. on Assembly days should enter School by the back link door (adjacent to the Biology Laboratory). The member of staff on duty will enter the pupil's name in the Late Book. The pupil must go to Assembly and check that the Form Teacher has marked you present.

Late Arrival (Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays)

Pupils who arrive between 8.45 a.m. and 9.00 a.m. should go directly to their Form Room and report to the Form Teacher. Pupils who arrive later than that should report to the Receptionist before joining their class. Persistent lateness will result in a letter home from the Deputy Head.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays 8.45 a.m. Registration followed by a form period. Pupils take it in turns, in groups, to organise form assemblies at this time.

On Wednesdays year group assemblies are held in the Chapel. These are organised by the Year Co-Ordinator and form staff.

School finishes at 3.40 p.m.

DAILY TIMETABLE

08.45	Morning registration in form rooms
08.50	Mondays and Fridays - whole school Assembly in the Hall
	Tuesdays - form period and signing of Homework Diaries
	Wednesdays & Thursdays - form period, including Form Assemblies, as appropriate
	Wednesdays - Year Group Assemblies
	Thursdays - periodic House Assemblies
09.00-09.40	Period 1
09.40-10.20	Period 2
10.20-10.40	Morning Break
10.40-11.20	Period 3
11.20-12.00	Period 4
12.00-12.40	Period 5
12.40-13.30	Lunch Break
13.35	Afternoon registration in form rooms
13.40-14.20	Period 6
14.20-15.00	Period 7
15.00-15.40	Period 8

ATTENDANCE

Absence

Pupils who are not in School must have a justifiable reason and parents should telephone the School by 9.30 a.m. on the first day of absence. It should be noted that the School will contact parents if an absence has not been reported by this time. On returning to School after any absence, pupils should bring a signed note of explanation from home.

Where absence is foreseen, permission should be sought, in writing, in advance. Permission is given only for serious reasons. We prefer pupils to be moderate in their entries for Music and Drama Festivals.

Holidays in School Time

Parents are requested not to take pupils out of School during term time, particularly for family holidays. Where this is unavoidable, requests for leave of absence should be made to the Deputy Head well in advance of the date of the holiday.