

Many thanks for taking the time to book your child onto theASCENT discipleship process. We would like to highlight some key elements of the process for your reference.

Please note that the process being run at **Worth** is for those in **the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton only**, along with specific parish partnerships. At the other two locations, theASCENT is open to anyone around the country.

PAYMENT

theASCENT is fantastic value for money, offering a unique experience of discipleship for young people in the UK. The full cost of one year for each participant amounts to £450. If you need help with payment, we suggest finding two benefactors to give £10 a month to subsidise your payment or seeking funding from your parish in the first instance. This can be done by simply directing people to the donation section of our website and informing us of the name of the payee so we can credit it to your payment record. If neither of the above are possible, we have a limited bursary fund available on request. If you would like to access this, please contact admin@theascentuk.co.uk stating your reasons for this request.

A few more notes about costs:

- This annual cost covers all food, accommodation, mentoring, PoDs and resources.
- Unfortunately, payment is non-refundable if you miss a weekend during the year.
- Your child can choose to opt out of theAscent at any time but payment is required until the end of that particular academic year due to theAscent's booking commitments with our residential locations
- A full copy of our Terms and Conditions is available on the website

ATTENDANCE

As we have a limited number of places available for each cohort, which are heavily oversubscribed, it is vital that each participant attends as much of the process as possible and does not take it for granted. A minimum requirement of attendance at all three weekends is asked if possible. With regard to weekly PoD sessions, we understand that every now and again there might be something that clashes with the PoD night, and if this is the case we ask that out of courtesy the participant lets their leader know in advance. However, please note that PoD is not an optional part of the process and 75% attendance is required to progress to the following year of the process.

TheAscent is a three year process and although we understand that occasionally someone will not be able to carry out the whole process, we encourage the participants to aim to complete the full three years, both for their own benefit primarily and because of the high demand for places at the beginning of the process.

Dates for the residential weekends and PoD terms are on the website. Please note that residential weekend dates vary depending on the location so please check you have the correct dates. If you need any further information or clarification, please contact admin@theascentuk.co.uk

ONLINE SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES

We take safeguarding very seriously, especially online, and our full safeguarding policy is available on our website. Our safeguarding protocol includes, but is not limited to, the following points:

- Individual team members will not make contact with young people privately, except where specifically arranged with the young person's parent/guardian in advance (for example as part of a mentoring arrangement). If any other personal contact is required, this will be made with accountability by copying in our Safeguarding Officer using the address safeguarding@theascentuk.co.uk.
- 1-to-1 mentoring between young people and team members will take place only with express consent of parents/guardians during the last PoD session of the month. While theASCENT respects the privacy of these mentoring sessions – and indeed all sessions – we do not promise absolute confidentiality. This ensures we are able to deal appropriately with any safeguarding concerns either raised during, or regarding, any of our sessions.
- Online small groups (Pockets of Disciples, PoD) gather through a Zoom video conference each week. This is to take place at 7.30pm on a MONDAY night for 1 hour. These sessions are not to continue beyond 8.45pm as this increases parental availability and transparency, as well as respects the needs of the young people to sleep sufficiently.
- Team should ensure all present during video conferences are comfortable and respected. Any excluding or bullying behaviour is to be prevented where possible, and acted on if it presents itself. All should be dressed modestly. Any young person or team member who is not dressed or behaving appropriately should be removed from the video conference to address the issue.
- Any concerns regarding the welfare of young people that arise during a video conference or any other electronic communication should be acted on in accordance with the relevant guidelines for safeguarding. If a team member is in doubt they must contact our dedicated Safeguarding Officer (safeguarding@theascentuk.co.uk) for advice.
- In the event that only one team member is available, recordings may be made of online sessions and used only for the purposes of verifying what happened during those sessions, should any complaints or questions arise. Recordings will be kept for the duration of the process or for a year after the event, whichever is longer.

INFORMATION ABOUT OUR LOCATIONS

WORTH ABBEY

We are delighted to be able to host theASCENT at Worth Abbey, a Benedictine Monastery in West Sussex. Worth is home to a community of around twenty monks, and hosts numerous residential programmes, for both adults and young people, throughout the year.

FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION

theASCENT will take place in the retreat houses of 'the open cloister' - modern, comfortable facilities with well maintained rooms, and plenty of shower and toilet facilities. Rooms will be shared among members of the same sex. All meals will be provided on site.

FINDING WORTH ABBEY

Worth Abbey is on Paddockhurst Road, in the village of Turners Hill. The address for your SatNav is RH104SB, and it's roughly five minutes from junction 10A on the M23. Note, however, that Junction 10A is only accessible from the Southbound carriageway. Please enter the site by the monastery entrance, and not the school entrance. The nearest train station is Three Bridges. A taxi from Three Bridges costs between £10-£15 depending on the time of day. We are unfortunately unable to provide lifts to or from the station, but we suggest arranging to share lifts or taxis between participants.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

There will usually be a First Aider available during our courses. We also follow a stringent set of safeguarding procedures and make sure that all of our team have up to date DBS clearances.

SOME SPECIFIC SITE REGULATIONS

- Strictly no alcohol, drugs or drug paraphernalia on site - except for medical purposes.
- No mixed sex accommodation on site except in the case of married couples.
- Smoking is not permitted on site.
- Neither Worth Abbey nor theASCENT can be held responsible for loss or damage to persons or personal property.

BRENTWOOD (S.E.N.T.)

S.E.N.T.

Sion Community Centre for Evangelisation and National Training (S.E.N.T.) is a fully equipped residential Christian Conference Centre which will accommodate roughly 80 people during the ASCENT including participants, staff, and team.

Food and Accommodation

Participants will be sleeping in shared rooms in S.E.N.T (single sex only). All meals will be provided. There are also toilet and shower facilities on site.

Transport

The weekends are held at SENT, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex CM15 9BX. SENT can be reached by train from London Liverpool Street (Brentwood or Shenfield are the nearest stations) but please note we cannot provide transport to or from the station. If you are travelling by car, leave the M25 at junction 28.

Security

We follow child protection guidelines, and renew our DBS (Criminal Records Bureau/Disclosure and Barring Service) every three years. In the event of a fire, we have people responsible for making sure that everybody leaves the house and our house has excellent fire regulations in place.

Site rules

1. Strictly no alcohol, drugs or drug paraphernalia on site - except for medical purposes.
2. No mixed sex accommodation on site unless they are a married couple.
3. Smoking is not permitted on site.
4. Silence in the house after lights out.
5. Sion Community cannot be held responsible for loss or damage to persons or personal property.

CUMBRIA

theASCENT Cumbria is hosted at the Lancaster Diocese Youth Retreat Centre: Castlerigg Manor, Manor Brow, Keswick CA12 4AR

Food and Accommodation

Participants will be sleeping in shared rooms in Castlerigg (single sex only). All meals will be provided. There are also toilet and shower facilities on site.

Transport

The nearest train station is Penrith. We are unfortunately unable to provide lifts to or from the station, but we suggest arranging to share lifts or taxis between participants.

Security

We also follow child protection, and have renewed our CRB/DBS (Criminal Records Bureau/Disclosure and Barring Service) every three years. In the case of fire, we have people responsible for making sure that everybody leaves the house, and our house has sufficient fire regulations in place.

Site rules

1. Strictly no alcohol, drugs or drug paraphernalia on site - except for medical purposes.
2. No mixed gender accommodation on site unless they are a married couple.
3. Smoking is not permitted on site.
4. Silence in the house after lights out.
5. Castlerigg cannot be held responsible for loss or damage to persons or personal property.

Accessibility and Special Needs

Please contact us directly on admin@theascentuk.co.uk if your child requires special care or access arrangements.