

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.

### 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 £375. If you are able to contribute 100% of this cost, your generosity would be most appreciated. If you are not able to do so, we suggest finding two benefactors to give £10 a month to support your 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](mailto:admin@theascentuk.co.uk) stating your reasons for this request.

Details of how to pay and monthly breakdowns can be found on the 'Payment Info' form.

#### *A few more notes about costs:*

- This annual cost covers all food, accommodation, mentoring, PoDs and resources.
- Payments are to be made via our website payment platform – either up front for each year or via monthly payments which will need to start as soon as you make your booking. These will continue all the way through the process (30 monthly payments) unless your child chooses to opt out of the next year at which point the subscription will be stopped at the appropriate point.
- A full refund for cancellation is available up until a month before the first weekend in October. After this point a refund is not guaranteed unless the place is filled with another participant. If the place cannot be filled, full payment for the first year will be required.
- Unfortunately, payment is non-refundable if you miss a weekend during the year.

## 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. In 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.

Please also note that this is a three year process and although we accept not all will be able to carry out the whole process we encourage the participants to recommit after each year until the 3 year process is complete, particularly in light of the demand for places at the beginning of the process.

The dates for the following year are:

Weekends	PoD Sessions ( Mondays 7.30-8.30pm)
28 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2022	31 <sup>st</sup> Oct-12 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2022
24 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2023	9 <sup>th</sup> Jan-27 <sup>th</sup> March 2023
21 <sup>st</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2021	17 <sup>th</sup> April-17 <sup>th</sup> July 2023

## ONLINE SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES

We take safeguarding very seriously, especially online, and our full safeguarding policy can be obtained on request. Having read the following key points, we ask that you sign your agreement on the parental consent form:

- 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](mailto: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 accord with the relevant guidelines for safeguarding. If a team member is in doubt they must contact our dedicated Safeguarding Officer ([safeguarding@theascentuk.co.uk](mailto: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.

### 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.

### Accessibility and Special Needs

Please contact us directly at [brentwood@theascentuk.co.uk](mailto:brentwood@theascentuk.co.uk) if your child requires special care or access.

### Security

There is always a First Aid officer available at our weekends. We also follow child protection guidelines, and renew our CRB/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.

## POINTS OF CONTACT

If you need to get in touch with one of the team during the retreat, please call Sion Community on 01277 215077 or email [brentwood@theascentuk.co.uk](mailto:brentwood@theascentuk.co.uk).

For more information, have a look at [www.theascentuk.co.uk](http://www.theascentuk.co.uk)