



Scholarship Policy (Whole School including EYFS)

Independent Day School

Our Lady of Sion School

Last Reviewed: June 2023
Frequency of Review: 3 years
Next Review Due: June 2026

AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Our Lady of Sion is keen to admit students with a wide range of talents and to encourage excellence in all areas. Scholarships are highly sought after and only a small number of scholarship applications are successful.

The accolade of “Scholar” is a noteworthy title. Holding the title “Scholar” should instil in the child a great sense of pride, honour, and responsibility. This title is not given freely and therefore if one is bestowed it, one should be mindful of its significance.

At Our Lady of Sion School, Scholarships (in general) do not hold a monetary value.

However, there are three exceptions to this rule:

- Ratisbonne Scholarship – **Junior School (Reception – Year 6)**
- Louise Humann Scholarship – **Year 9 and Year 10 entry into the school**
- Sapere Aude Scholarship – **Entry into VISion (Sixth Form)**

These scholarships are not means-tested. Their monetary value is between 5%-10% of the school fee for that academic year. Scholarships are reviewed each year and will be re-awarded if the young person has met the criteria of the scholarship expectations and upheld the values and ethos of the school.

Ratisbonne Scholarship - Junior School Scholarship

Offered to children entering the Junior School. There are a limited number of awards.

The Ratisbonne Scholarship is offered to those children who are obviously high aptitude learners, demonstrating accelerated ability for acquiring, retaining, and applying knowledge.

Ratisbonne Scholars will proactively contribute to the academic and creative community of Our Lady of Sion through scholarly endeavours and other important avenues such as Music, Sport or Drama. They will also demonstrate the key elements of the Sion ethos which was initially designed and expressed by Theodore and Alphonse Ratisbonne – our Founders.

The Ratisbonne Scholarship is non-means tested.

Final award is decided by the Headteacher.

The Ratisbonne Scholarship could last for the whole of Junior School.

All Scholars are reviewed annually.

The scholarship would be revoked if a pupil failed to demonstrate our exacting standards around behaviour and academic engagement.

Louise Humann Scholarship - Entry into Year 9 or Year 10

This is a scholarship for Year 9 and 10. It is for bright, motivated students who want to maximise their own potential with the authentic care and support that Sion can deliver. We have noticed more recently that there is an increase in the number of young people currently in larger State Schools who are looking for a smaller, naturally calmer, focused and outcome-driven environment for Key Stage 4.

The Scholarship is named after an inspirational educationalist, Louise Humann, who was instrumental in the birth of Sion Education in the 1800s.

With its award-winning pastoral care and nurturing approach, alongside small classes and academic rigour, a Sion education focuses on the individual needs of each student. Our Lady of Sion knows their students very well and works tirelessly to strengthen confidence and empower every child to reach their own exceptional educational outcomes.

With the Louise Humann Scholarship, the aim is to offer further opportunities to those students who are very keen to complete Key Stage 4 and enjoy GCSE outcomes which reflect true potential and intrinsic dedication to achievement.

The scholarship supports entry into Year 9 – where young people prefer to have a year in the school before embarking upon GCSE courses – and into Year 10 when the GCSE programme commences. The financial provision within this scholarship offers 10% discount on school fees – however, the Headteacher may offer an increased discount if the scholarship budget permits and/or the Headteacher recognises that welcoming a particular young person into Our Lady of Sion is principally significant.

Sapere Aude Scholarship – Entry into Year 12

The Sapere Aude Sixth Form Scholarship is for entry to VISion – the Sixth Form Centre at Our Lady of Sion School. It exists to support bright, hardworking students who have already achieved excellent GCSE results (or are expected to) and are now aspiring towards outstanding A Level grades. We want to encourage original thinking from energised and engaging thinkers.

VISion students have the ambition to achieve entry to the most coveted university places in the UK and overseas. Whilst studying here with us, our senior students will benefit from small classes and close mentoring by experienced and dedicated teachers – whilst also belonging to a caring, warm, and encouraging community.

This scholarship is open to young people currently studying at Our Lady of Sion School or studying elsewhere.

High attainment across the GCSE subjects and especially those being studied (where applicable) is required, along with evidence of original thinking and a love for learning and research. The interview with the Deputy Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form will explore these areas of academic aptitude during the Sapere Aude interviews. These take place in the Spring Term before the September admission into Year 12. VISion students should have the ambition to achieve entry to top universities and naturally inspire our younger students to reach full potential. Sapere Aude students will work with the school's leadership team to raise aspirations of all students in the school.

External applicants will need a written report from their current school which evidences those traits expected from those studying here at the VISion Centre.

The Sapere Aude Scholarship Award is non-means tested and the final award will be decided by the Headteacher. The financial provision within this scholarship offers 10% discount on school fees – however, the Headteacher may offer an increased discount if the scholarship budget permits and/or the Headteacher recognises that welcoming a particular young person into Our Lady of Sion is principally significant.

Subject Specific Scholarships - Senior School

A scholarship is a discretionary privilege, subject to high standards of attendance, diligence and behaviour on the pupil's part and to the parents treating the school and its staff reasonably.

The title of Scholar is awarded by the Headteacher.

It is initiated through a nomination from a member of the school's academic staff.

At the start of the Spring Term of each academic year, Heads of Faculties will meet with the Deputy Headteacher to discuss any current students who have demonstrated high aptitude in their subject area and should be recognised through the Scholar Nomination Programme. Those nominating are aware of the Success Criteria which needs to be met for nominations to be considered. Each subject area has their own Success Criteria but there is careful moderation by the Deputy Headteacher to ensure that the expected standards are closely aligned across all curriculum subjects.

Nominations are submitted to the Deputy Headteacher in the Spring Term of the academic year.

Nominations are reviewed by the Headteacher and the Deputy Headteacher.

Students and parents are informed of "nominated status" – this is an accolade worthy of celebration.

From the nominations, the Deputy Headteacher publishes a shortlist for Scholarship Interviews.

At a point in the Spring Term, the Headteacher and/or the Deputy Headteacher will interview all shortlisted candidates.

Successful students and parents will be informed before the Easter Holiday of that academic year. The scholarship title will commence at the start of the next academic year (September) – reviewed again the following Spring. All successful scholars will be formally recognised at the Prize Giving event held at the start of each academic year. Scholars will receive their scholar certificate and badge from the Headteacher. Names will also be added to the Scholar Honours Board each year.

Unsuccessful candidates and their parents will be informed with feedback.

The awarding of a scholarship is dependent upon a candidate's performance in competitive examinations, impact on that subject area in school or exceptional results in assessments relating to the area of application.

If a scholarship is awarded, there would be an expectation that the student actively pursues their talent within the school community and promotes that subject as part of the Scholarly mindset. Scholars are effectively leaders in their field of interest/expertise. This needs to be clearly evidenced in the life of the school.

Scholars are reviewed each Spring Term regarding the development of the skill set and its impact on school life. There needs to be evidence of sharing the scholarly skills and talents within school and school events. Failure to fully engage in this way will lead to the scholarship being revoked after review.

Scholars receive support from the school to develop and grow their talents. This is centralised within the “Sion Scholar Pathway to Discovery” which is managed by the Deputy Headteacher and supported by subject teachers/leaders related to the academic area in focus.

Celebration of the title, Scholar

As part of our Prizegiving Ceremony (in September), all scholars for that academic year will be awarded a Scholars Badge and certificate. This is a formal event to celebrate outstanding achievement and service in school and beyond the school gates. Scholars should feel very proud of their title, and we look to them to work with us to raise aspirations, inspire original thinking and encourage a “Challenge+” mindset in all young people here.

Free Entry into the Original Minds’ Circle and the Sion Scholar Pathway to Discovery

All Sion Scholars are automatically made members of the Original Minds’ Circle (OMC) and are encouraged to attend the various events occurring throughout the academic year – regardless of the subject matter. OMC membership badges and certificates are awarded at the Prize-Giving event in September.

Scholars receive support from the school to develop and grow their talents. This is centralised within the “Sion Scholar Pathway” which is managed by the Deputy Headteacher and supported by subject teachers/leaders related to the academic area in focus.

Annual Scholarship Reviews

The impact of each Scholar is reviewed each Spring Term regarding the development of the skill set and its impact on school life. There needs to be evidence of impact upon the school community seen through engagement, energy, and progress within the associated academic areas. Failure to engage in this way will lead to the scholarship title being revoked after review. If there has been a financial award linked to the scholarship title, this will also come to an end at the close of the academic year. Students and parents will be informed regarding the review outcomes.

As a whole community, we want to benefit from our scholars and will work with each one of them to achieve positive and exciting outcomes. This is the desire of all of us here – therefore the revoking of scholarships should be a very rare decision.

Decision Making

The final decision with regards to the awards of scholarship titles across the Scholarship offer sits with the Headteacher. After consultation with the Deputy Headteacher and a review of the evidence gathered through nomination process and interviews, the Headteacher publishes the annual Scholar Honours List in the Summer Term in readiness for the Prize-Giving event in September and the new academic year.