

**Are the girls able to cycle to school and are there facilities to lock their bikes?**

Yes - we have bike racks for students to lock bikes to during the school day. We encourage students to wear a helmet and a high visibility jacket over their uniform when commuting to and from school. In the winter months, lights are also essential.

**What virtual learning was offered during lockdown?**

We followed the usual school timetable and work was set online for students for each lesson on their timetable via Show My Homework. Some subjects used different platforms such as Google Classrooms or other online resources such as Educake and Seneca. Students were able to interact with their teachers via these secure platforms if they had any queries about the work. Feedback was also given via these platforms.

**Are students allowed mobile phones if they switch them off and they are not seen when in school?**

No – we are a no mobile phone school. If a student brings a mobile phone to school, we confiscate it for the duration of the term and it is returned at either the Christmas, Easter or Summer holidays depending on the term it has been confiscated in.

We work very closely with the police who inform us that our students are less of a target because they do not have their mobile phones when commuting. They also tell us that we also have fewer incidences of cyber bullying compared to schools with mobile phones. Any cyber bullying issues we have occur outside of school.

Most importantly, it's also wonderful to see the girls communicating verbally with one another during their break and lunchtimes, not glued to their phones!

**Do you have pottery classes?**

We have the facility to do pottery in Art lessons.

**What's the best way to travel to school?**

Our students travel to school in a variety of ways: some get the bus, some cycle, some get the train and some walk. We are well served by public transport and therefore girls travel to us from a variety of locations across London.

**Do all students study separate sciences?**

All students study biology, chemistry and physics at KS3 and KS4. Some students study Combined Science at GCSE; this counts for two GCSEs. Some students study separate sciences at GCSE; this counts as three GCSEs. Both Combined Science and Separate Science are routes to separate science at A Level.

**Do you typically have spaces available for in-year transfers?**

Sometimes we have spaces for in-year transfer and we do operate a waiting list. However, we do not withhold spaces for in year transfer when conducting admissions; we fill our spaces and only if a student leaves would we have an opportunity for an in-year transfer.

**My priest passed away from COVID-19. How will I prove my attendance at mass?**

We are very sorry to hear that your priest has passed away. Rest assured, there will be someone in your Parish who can support you with school admissions.

**How often is mass said at school?**

We have Collective Worship at school daily but we go to Our Ladye Star of the Sea church where Father Kevin says mass for us. We do this throughout the term for class masses, year group masses, Holy Days of Obligation, Feast Days and end of term masses. Father Kevin also says mass in our school chapel every Friday at 8am.

**Do you have swimming?**

We do not offer swimming at St Ursula's.

**How many sports halls do you have?**

We have one Sports Hall. You can see images of this in the PE video in the admissions tab of our website.

**Do you have a big science lab?**

We have 5 fully functioning science labs at St Ursula's.

**Where do you purchase the uniform?**

We have three shops that stock our uniform: Whitehall (Lewisham), Bailwood (Lewisham) and Lucilla (Ilford).

**What are my chances of getting in my daughter into St Ursula's if we cannot evidence weekly practice?**

Each year we are oversubscribed and, year on year, we fill our spaces with baptised Catholics who can evidence weekly practice.

**What is the earliest time that students can arrive at school?**

We have a breakfast club from 8am. All students must be on site for 8.30am ready for an 8.40am Period 1 lesson. Currently, we have slightly different timings due to COVID-19 restrictions.

**Can my daughter have her instrument lesson during the school day?**

Yes – your daughter will be able to apply to have her instrument lessons during the school day. Forms to arrange this will be provided once your daughter has secured a place.

**Is there music and art?**

Yes – we are very proud of our excellent Art and Music departments. Students very much enjoy these subjects and, year on year, do exceptionally well in these subjects at GCSE. For more details,

please look at the Art and Music Department videos in the Admissions tab of our website.

### **What sports do you do?**

Students study a range of sports at St Ursula's. Some of these sports are: athletics, netball, basketball, rounders, fitness, football, tennis and dance. For more details, please look at the PE Department video in the Admissions tab of our website.

### **Is there a school orchestra or choir?**

Yes – we have well attended orchestra and choir. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are currently not allowed to run these clubs which is a huge disappointment but they will be back up and running as soon as the Government allow!

### **When is the best time to drop off documents to the school?**

The best time is between 9.30am and 4.30pm. Students leave school at 3pm so you may want to avoid 3-3.30pm as it can be busy. Please note, there is no parking available at St Ursula's so please park elsewhere and walk down the gravel path to our school reception.

### **When can we come to have a tour?**

We are unable to do in person tours this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, but please have a look at our virtual tour on our website as well as videos from each of departments. We also have videos from some current students, a past student and also from our Chaplaincy Team.

### **How do you identify more able children?**

We receive external data from primary schools and the DFE but we also conduct CATS tests here at St Ursula's. However, our teachers also identify students who are particularly gifted in certain areas such as Music and Sport.

### **Are there cooking classes?**

Yes – all students study Food Technology on rotation in Years 7, 8 and 9. Students can also study Food Technology for GCSE.

### **My son already attends a boy's Catholic school but we are Christian. What are the chances of my daughter getting a place at St Ursula's?**

You can apply to St Ursula's as a Christian. However, each year we are oversubscribed and, year on year, we fill our spaces with baptised Catholics who can evidence weekly practice. Please look at the Admissions criteria in our Admissions Policy for more details.

### **How long is lunch time?**

Lunch time is 50 minutes long.

### **Can we submit the supplementary form directly to school?**

Yes – you should. This form must come to us here at St Ursula's.

**Can we bring the original baptism certificate to you?**

Yes – we must see the original and not a copy. If you bring it to our school reception, we will photocopy it and make a note that we have seen the original. You will then be able to take the certificate straight home with you. If you post in the original, please do not forget to include a stamped addressed envelope so the certificate can be returned to you.

**How is homework set?**

Each year group has a homework timetable. Homework is set in lessons and students record their homework in their journals. Teachers then put work on Show my Homework as well.

**Do you do school productions and performances?**

Yes. We didn't have a school production last year due to COVID-19, but our most recent school production was Annie. We also have music concerts and speech and drama nights throughout the academic year. Dance is also very popular at St Ursula's and students have the opportunity to showcase the routines they have been perfecting in school.

**I have a new parish priest; how will he verify my weekly attendance?**

Please discuss this with your new Parish Priest. They will have plans in place for school admissions. They may be able to verify your attendance by liaising with other people in the Parish such as catechists.

**My daughter sometimes goes to a different parish as she goes to mass with her grandparents. She does practice weekly, but in two different parishes. What should I do?**

We need the evidence of weekly practise even it comes from two priests so that you can evidence that you are attending mass weekly. You can provide us with forms completed by two different priests. If you need to do this to evidence weekly practice, please do this and include an explanation as to why you have included evidence from two different priests.

**We haven't been able to attend mass since March due to COVID-19, how will this affect my application?**

Obviously this year, weekly attendance at mass hasn't been possible since March. The Education Commission has agreed that priests will only be asked to confirm weekly practice up until March. You can see the addendum to our Admissions Policy on our website.