

Virgo Fidelis Convent Senior School (147 Central Hill, London SE19 1RS)

Virgo Fidelis Convent Senior School, is a Roman Catholic voluntary aided secondary school for girls aged 11–18 located in Upper Norwood at 147 Central Hill, London SE19 1RS in the London Borough of Croydon. The school is part of the educational provision of the Archdiocese of Southwark and the London Borough of Croydon.

Background

The current building was designed by William Wardell and built in phases in the gothic style to accommodate Virgo Fidelis Convent Senior School commencing at that time. The convent is part of the Sisters of Our Lady of Fidelity, an international Roman Catholic religious organisation, founded in France in 1831.

It was set up in 1848 by a French Order of nuns called the Congregation of our Lady of Fidelity. The congregation was itself established in 1831 by Sister St Mary who devoted her life to the care of orphans and underprivileged children.

The orphanage closed after the Second World War in the 1960's. However, the buildings carried on in use as a fee-paying secondary school. A voluntary Aided School was founded 1945 called Our Lady's School. It took many "difficult" students from around Croydon but was always very small number about 200 students. The Director of Education closed the school in 1981. The majority of Students went to Bishop Thomas Grant and Saint Mary's. For two years the Salvation Army used the premises while their Premises was being built at Crystal Palace.

The school became a grant maintained school in 1997 and then a Local Authority (LA) Voluntary Aided School when all state-funded provision reverted back to LA control in 1998-99. After which the senior school and the independent prep school run alongside each other until 2016 when the prep school closed.

"The New School" opened in September 2020 which provides a unique education for children 4 to 16 years old.

The school is in the trusteeship of the Congregation of our Lady of Fidelity. Though it remains in the geographical territory of the Diocese, under Canon Law (the law of the Roman Catholic Church), the Archbishop – and/or his delegates – only has the power to retain or remove its designation as a Catholic school. The land and buildings in which the school is conducted are let for the purposes of education by the Trustees.