

Report of the Board of Trustees of the Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind

The Board of Trustees of the Ceylon School for the Deaf and Blind is pleased to present this report for the year 2016, in respect of the Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind, which governs the Schools for the Deaf & Blind Ratmalana and Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind Kaithady, Jaffna. This report covers the activities during the year under review.

Mandate and Mission

To provide a professionally managed service using trained manpower, appropriate technology and methods, to facilitate and enable those lives that have been placed in the care of the Ceylon School for the Deaf and Blind.

Governance and Oversight

While the Board of Trustees governed and laid down policy for the schools, the Executive Committee ensured and supervised the implementation of the policies set out by the Board of Trustees. Though the Executive Committee monitored the progress and activities in the schools, the respective Principals are responsible for the daily operations in the schools.

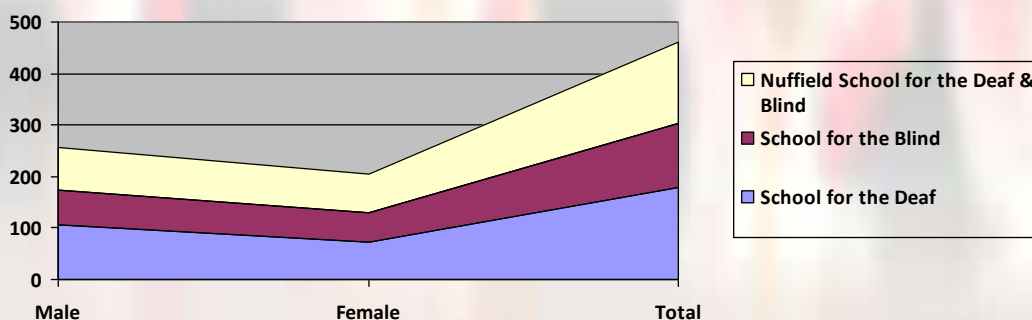
During the year under review, the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee met on many occasions. The Annual General Meeting was held on a day that the Board of Trustees met and preceded the Board of Trustees meeting.

Sub Committees in various disciplines such as Education, comprising of members drawn from the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee, maintained an oversight on the schools and advised / assisted the Principals to manage the schools.

Schools Statistics

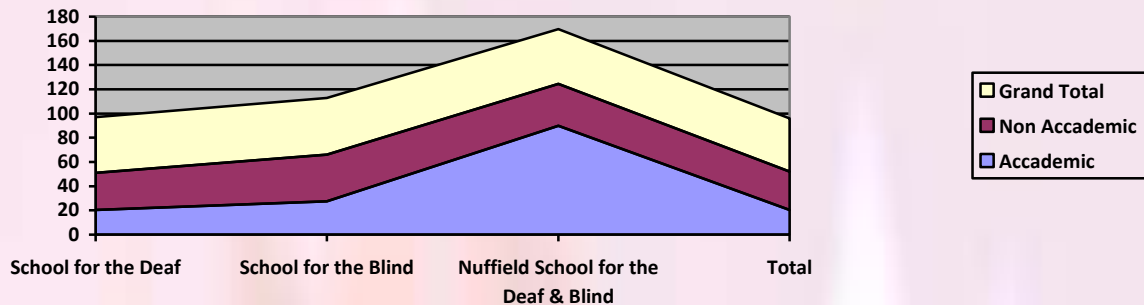
Student Numbers as at 31 December 2016

	Male	Female	Total
School for the Deaf	107	73	180
School for the Blind	67	57	124
Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind	83	74	157



Staff as at 31 December 2016

	School for the Deaf	School for the Blind	Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind	Total
Academic	36	29	30	95
Non Academic	25	23	30	78
Grand Total	61	52	60	173



Important School Events

School for the Deaf

- The Principal participated at the 1st Annual World Disability & Rehabilitation Conference which held on 27th January, at Galadari Hotel Colombo.
- The Sinhala Avurudu celebrations took place on 6th April at the School Grounds. As in previous years, this was sponsored by the Senior Guild of Holy Emmanuel Church, Moratuwa.
- The School Prize Giving was held on 23rd September. Mr. Chandana Sooriyabandara, Channel Head of Sirasa TV was the Chief Guest.
- 10 Students and 3 Teachers participated at the Historical & Geography Exploration to Jaffna Peninsula in connection with the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Awards.
- The Children's Christmas Party was held on the 29th of November sponsored by HSBC & the Welfare Society of the American Embassy.
- The Annual Carol Service held jointly with the School for the Blind, was held on 1st December at the School Chapel. His Lordship Bishop Dhiloraj Canagasabey graced this occasion.

School for the Blind

- Our Annual Sports Meet was held in February. The Chief Guests were Mr. & Mrs. Chandra Schaffter Chairman of Executive Committee. The Sports Meet was sponsored by Brandix Essentials.
- On 28th of March a "Rukropana Programme" took place. Several Varieties of herbal and other plants were planted in the school grounds.
- The 104th Founder's Day was celebrated on 17th of June. A service was held at the Chapel of The Holly Child. This was followed by breakfast.

- Mrs. Sujatha Samaraweera organized a Poson Bhakti Gee event jointly for students from Blind & Deaf School on 25th June.
- The three school combined concert titled “Colors of the Wind” was held on 30th July 2016 at Ladies College Auditorium.
- Our Annual Prize Giving was held on the 29th September 2016 on our school premises. The Chief Guest was Mr. Upul Weerasingha, Assistant Director, Statistic Department, Central Bank who is a past pupil of our school.
- The Royal College Group of 70 organized a Children’s Day programme on the 1st October 2016. Each student were given a gift and they donated a heavy-duty refrigerator for the kitchen
- The Lion’s Club of Maharagama organized a White Cane Day programme, during this programme our children performed their talents on the stage.
- Our Annual Christmas tree was sponsored by Maliban Biscuits Manufacturers.

Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind

- The school celebrated its 60th anniversary on the 19th and 20th of February 2016. Rt. Rev. Dhiloraj Canagasabey celebrated Holy Communion in the school chapel of Christ our Hope on the 20th and graced the occasion as Chief Guest at the public meeting held afterwards in the school hall. An educational exhibition was held on the 19th of February at the school which was well appreciated by parents, local schools and well wishers. The Chairman and a number of Trustees from the Board attended these events. A souvenir to mark the occasion was also published. Some sections of the alumni have been very supportive and raised over Rs. 200,000/- for the anniversary related projects.
- Prize Giving was held on 11th June 2016, at which the Chief Guest was Dr. M. Malaravan, Consultant Ophthalmologist, Teaching Hospital, Jaffna.
- The School Chapel Day was held on 24th June 2016; Holy Communion was celebrated by Rev. Jeyarajah and Rev. Gnanakarunnian.
- Children’s day and Teachers’ day were celebrated on 3rd and 6th October 2016 respectively. Students and staff participated in the games and competitions organized by the teachers.
- Our school participated in the Combined Schools Carol Services on 06th November 2016 held at St. John’s College, Jaffna.
- Annual Carol service was held on 12th November 2016. Our students performed in the Carol services organized by YMCA and Zonal Education, Thenmarachchi in the month of November and the December 2016.

Education

The schools continued to offer an education up to the GCE Ordinary Level examination, in line with the Department of Education curriculum. Those who qualified for GCE Advanced Level gained admission to Private and Government schools, for which we express our gratitude to the respective Principals and Vice Principals and staff. Students who did not qualify, have the option of remaining for a further period of one year in the school, to continue vocational training or apply for job placements where possible, through the schools.

School for the Deaf

- The 2nd Batch of the Foundation Class of English for O/L students commenced on 6th May at Gateway College, Nawala, Rajagiriya.
- 3 Students participated in an IT Syllabus related examination conducted for students of all the Special Schools in Sri Lanka by the Ministry of Skills Development on 15th July. Of these 3 students, Master Rasika Sampath Amarasinghe was awarded a Scholarship to attend the “Global IT Challenge for Youth Disabilities” to be held in China from 21st – 25th November.
- 9 Students sat the Grade 5 Scholarship Examination held on 21st August. Special classes were conducted by our Teachers throughout the year for these students.
- Special classes were conducted (for all subjects) for our O/L students from 23rd-30th August.
- Afternoon classes (from 3 – 4.30 p.m.) for Grades 6, 9, 10 & 11 are conducted by our teachers on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- A Seminar for O/L students of our School as well as the Blind School, organized by the Ministry of Education, was held in our School from 24th – 28th October.

School for the Blind

- We have been conducting evening classes for the weak students for the past several years. There are volunteer English teachers who visit the school regularly. Dr. Sanath Gamage conducted a seminar on “Motivation” on the 11th of May. Students of Grade 6-11 participated. He explained the students how to conquer the world with disabilities.
- A series of seminars along with the SFTD were conducted for (G. C. E) O/L students and our teachers conducted revision classes in all subjects.
- Identified students who are weak in Braille and special classes have been set up to improve Braille, including the new comers to the school.
- One of our students obtained above 100 marks, also 06 students obtained over 70 marks.
- Two Students participated in a competition “Global Information Technology” organized by Ministry of Education for the differently able youngsters. Sadeep Shamal was selected to participate in the international competition in China and won a special certificate for his performance.

Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind

The school continued to provide education to the Deaf and Blind from Grade 01 to G.C.E (O/L) examination according to the Department of Education Curriculum. Those who qualified for G.C.E (A/L) continued their studies in other government Schools. 17 Deaf students sat for their O/L exam in Dec 2016 and 07 students sat for the Grade Scholarship exam in August 2016. Students actively participate in Zonal and Provincial Department level competitions in art & music.

Information Technology and Computer Aided Education

Due to the advanced equipment used in the schools, the students have gained a remarkable knowledge in this area. No other school catering to visually and hearing impaired students in Sri Lanka have the facilities provided by the Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind to its student body in the three schools.

Two students from the School for the Deaf & the School for the Blind participated in an international competition and performed remarkably.

Computers with Speech software is used to teach all sight impaired children and. Computers with narrations are used for the education of Hearing impaired children.

Staff Training and Development

School for the Deaf

- 4 Teachers followed an IT and Graphic Designing Course conducted by 2 Final Year University students.
- 2 Officers from the Child Protection Authority conducted a one day Workshop for Hostel Matrons/Masters and Teachers on the care and control of the students in their Hostels and Classrooms and how to correct them without enforcing corporal punishment.
- Officers from the Child Protection Society visited the School to conduct a Counseling Program for parents.

School for the Blind

- Training on 'How to care for the young and teenagers in a Hostel Environment' was held for all teachers and hostel staff.
- A programme on Skill Development was conducted by the Ministry of Education.
- A seminar to develop the Braille skills by the Zonal Education Office was also conducted in school.
- Workshop on how to manufacture of instant fruit drinks, cordial, jam and tomato sauce by the Industrial Development Board of Ceylon.
- Many other seminars and training programs for subject teachers on new syllabuses and other teaching methods.

Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind

- The Sri Lankan Sign Language was introduced in January 2016 as a medium of instruction as a measure to fall in line with the national curriculum and standards for deaf education in Sri Lanka. This will enable our students to access official Sign Language interpretation which is not the case to date.
Sri Lankan Sign Language Classes were held for all staff in the afternoons/evenings twice a week by a specialist teacher. Audio visual material to teach the Sri Lankan Sign Language is being developed by staff and being used for instruction in the classroom.
- **Teachers participate in seminars and workshops related to special education and general education conducted by the Zonal, Provincial Departments of Education and the Ministry of Education.**
- Two teachers are undergoing training at the Kopay Teachers Training College and one will rejoin the school in September 2017 and May 2018 respectively.
- Two volunteer preschool teachers went to India to follow a Diploma in Early Childhood Education for Hearing Impaired Children in June. Their studies in India are sponsored by the Walsall Rotarians of U.K. They have entered into a bond agreement with the CSDB, and are expected to return in a year after completing their diploma and work for the school for at least 4 years. They expected to return home in 2017.
- Principal of the School went to Northern Ireland for training in Supported Employment. This programme provides the necessary training and certificate (Level 7) for officers who support differently able people in employment.
- Three of our staff including the Principal attended a multiyear planning workshop by CBM in January 2016 (5 years partnership from 2017 to 2022)

Vocational Training

School for the Deaf

The following vocational training initiatives are currently being conducted at the School.

Sewing, Carpentry, Pastry & Bakery, Mushroom Cultivation, Bridal Dressing, Anthurium Cultivation, LED Bulb making project, Printing & Hair Cutting.

From 1st May, the school recruited a permanent Machine Minder for the Printing Division which enables them to undertake printing orders from outside.

20 parents of students of are following Vocational Training Classes in Sewing, Cookery, Crochet, etc., during School hours, in order to uplift their standard of living.

Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind

The following vocational training programmes are currently being conducted in the school.

Sewing, Carpentry, Welding, Agriculture & ICT.

Students from grades 06 – 11 attend Vocational Training courses from 2.30 to 3.30 pm, after school hours. Agriculture, poultry and sewing products are used for school consumption while carpentry and welding requirements are catered to by the respective Vocational Training units. Small amounts of agricultural and poultry products are sold to outsiders. Our current Vocational Training staff is

being supported by the school and GIZ to get the appropriate qualifications to meet standards required for NVQ level instructors.

Sports

School for the Deaf

- Cricket, Volleyball, Basketball, Netball and Swimming are being actively carried out in the School. We have Inter-House Matches and Meets where we select the Best House, Best Player, etc., and their talents will be recognized and appreciated at the School Prize Giving.
- School Drill Squad performed at the opening ceremony of Para Olympics. This event was organized by the Zonal Education Office, Piliyandala.
- The Annual Sports Meet of the School was held on 3rd February. This event was sponsored by the Lions Club.
- Sunshine Games were held at the Prison Grounds, Borella and the students were able to secure many 1st and 2nd places.
- The new Basketball Court was officially declared open on 29th March by the former Bishop Dulip de Chickera. The Basketball Court was blessed by the School Chaplain, Fr. Malinda de Mel. Two teams from Gateway College and Ladies' College were invited for the inauguration match. Gateway College also made a donation of 14 basketballs.
- Zonal Special Education Sports Meet was held on 4th March at our School Grounds. School Percussion Band and the Drill Squad performed on this occasion.

School for the Blind

- Junior Girls were placed as champions in the events they took part in at the Para Olympics Games.
- Zonal Games Competition was held in March. 36 students took part in it and they became champions in all the events they took part in.
- All students who took part in the Sunshine Games became winners.
- Students participated in the Delma Cricket Tournament in May.

Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind

- A marathon race was held ahead of the Athletic Meet.
- The Annual Athletic meet was held in February. Hon. E. Arnold, Member of the Northern Provincial Council and Mrs. Nalajini Arnold graced the occasion as Chief Guests. Mr. N. Srikantha, ISA-Physical Education, Thenmaradchi Zone was the Special Guest.
- 10 students participated in the sports meet organized by the Zonal Education Department at Madduvil Skathavarothaya Mahavidyalayam. Many of our differently able students received certificates having competed with normal students.
- 45 students participated in the Sports meet organized by Northern Provincial Department at Thuraiyappa Stadium.

Extra Curricular and Other Activities

School for the Deaf

- 4 Students and 2 Scout Leaders attended the 9th National Scout Jamboree held in Jaffna.
- 10 of students were invited to the Hotel Galadari in Colombo for the Installation ceremony of the Governor of the Rotary Club and discussions are now underway to revive the Rotary Club activities in the School.
- A cookery demonstration organized by the Lions Club, on how to make Cup Cakes and on how to pack dry rations, was held at the School premises.
- 10 Cub Scouts received their badges at a ceremony held in the School. The chief Guest was Mrs. Watsala Wijewickrema, Asst. Chief Cub Scout Commissioner.
- A Cultural Event of Art and Dance was held at Sujatha Balika Vidyalaya, Colombo 5 at which students were awarded prizes.
- The Sri Lanka Girl Guides Association held a National Camp in Jaffna, for differently able Guides. 10 Girl Guides and 2 teachers participated.
- Girl guides' Inter-religious reconciliation programme was held at the Blind School premises.

School for the Blind

- A Yoga Program organized by the Divisional Secretariat was held for the students.
- 91st Anniversary of Girl Guide Association and "Environment Day" were celebrated on in school.
- Students participated in Sinhala literary competition organized by the Social Services Section of the Divisional Secretariat, Ratmalana and won prizes and awards.
- All island camp for the Differently Able Guides entitled "Great to be Unique" was held in Jaffna. Eight students participated in the camp.
- Sinhala Literary Day was held on the 7th October 2016. The guest speaker was Mr. Jalaylath Monorathna.
- The Investiture of Scouts was held in school. The chief guest was Assistant District Commissioner. Fourteen new scouts were enrolled on that day.
- Western Province Special Education Division organized an Evening of Entertainment "Mal Hinehe" at the Maharagama Youth Center, Twelve of our students took part in a group song.

Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind

- Our school participated in the Art competition related to preventing road accidents.
- Mural painting work was held in the Secondary block with the help of donors from the U.K.
- School participated in the Karate competition organized by the Provincial Department at Hindu Ladies College the girls won Gold / Silver & Bronze medals. Six students were selected to participate in the National Competition in Colombo.
- In the group events, Boys won 02nd places (silver medals) and Girls won 01 place (gold medal).

- 71 students and 11 teachers participated in the Library awareness program at the Public Library, Jaffna.
- The Sri Lanka Girls Guides Association held a national camp for differently able guides in school.
- Students participated in the art, singing and dance competitions organized by Zonal Educational Office Chavakachcheri for the differently able day.
- Students drew “Koolam” for the Koolam competitions organized by Zonal Education office Thenmarachchi for the celebration of Children day.
- A programme was conducted by Speech Therapy students from Faculty of Medicine; Kelaniya University was an immensely exciting experience for our students. Paper quelling work, cooking, art & handicraft work, and a reality show were jointly done by our students and the university students.

Schools Health and Welfare, Infrastructure development

Health and Welfare

All three schools were visited by Government Medical Officers who checked on the health of the children and the Public Health Inspectors examine the premises and kitchen regularly. Medical, Ear and Dental camps were also held in the schools. The children were sent to the respective specialists as and when necessary. Student counseling and Physiotherapy have been given special emphasis and trained Counselors and Physiotherapists visit the schools to look into the needs of the students. A doctor visits once a month to check on the students' mental health too.

Speech and Language therapy is provided to students in need at the School for the Deaf and for the Deaf children at the Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind.

A seminar on Prevention of Drugs & Alcoholism was held organized by the Department Of Social services at the School for the Blind.

Dr. Ranjith Thambyrajah an ENT Surgeon resident in the UK and his colleagues continue to visit the school, examine the students and provide Ear Moulds & Hearing Aids.

Students of the School for the Blind visited the “Saradiel Village” – Uthuvan Kanda. It was a day outing and around fifty students participated. This outing was a great experience for the students to improve their knowledge about life of the ancient villagers. Mr. Sanath Gamage, a Human Rights Development Officer, conducted a seminar for teachers and students from Grade 8 onwards on the theme “Handicap is not a barrier to education”.

Infrastructure Development & Maintenance

Renovations were done to all classrooms and hostels at the School for the Blind. Paint for the paint jobs were donated very kindly by well-wishers and the labor for the renovations were from the Sri Lanka Air Force. A small play area was created and the laying of turf was sponsored by Brandix Essentials.

World Vision has done several very valuable projects at the Nuffield School last year. They built a rainwater harvesting tank with the help of Sri Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum with the help of USAID. A filter has been installed in the dining hall to further purify this rain water for drinking purposes. This filter works on solar power. Excess water from the harvesting tank during heavy rainy season is pumped into a nearby well to purify the well water in the long term.

Also four toilets were built and one is the first ever disabled toilet in the school.

A 2000 liter sump was built in the school by World Vision to collect drinking water from the public water supply and this is pumped into a 1000 liter overhead tank that distributes drinking water. Prior to this, the school had difficulties getting uninterrupted supply of drinking water.

Finance and Funding

Resource Development Committee (RDC)

The main objective of the RDC is to raise funds to run the three schools under the purview of the Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind. RDC carried out two fundraisers for the year 2015, namely a Christmas Card Project which have been a success for the past several years and a Concert titled “ Colors of the Wind” which not only raised funds but showcased the talents of the hearing and sight impaired children in our care.. These were done outside of the ongoing Sponsor a Child program and the Meals Program. The total income from all RDC fundraisers is approximately ----- Million.

Fund Raising and Meals Donations

Much appreciation to the general public, who respond readily to the Bishop’s appeal sent out thrice a year to about 2000 addresses on each occasion, requesting for donations. The Board office and the Resource Development Committee continued the fund raising programs and raised a total of Rs.---- Million during the year. These funds raised helped to meet both the operating costs and infrastructure development. Our heartfelt gratitude to all donors / well wishes that contributed towards all infrastructure development and for the continuing support by donating meals and sponsoring children.

Income & Expenditure

The annual statement of accounts gives a detailed analysis of the financial position. The total income and expenditure was Rs --- Million and Rs ---- Million respectively.

Past Pupils Associations

Past Pupils Associations were active in all three schools. The Alumni of the Nuffield School helped financially towards the 60th School Birthday Celebrations.

Obituaries

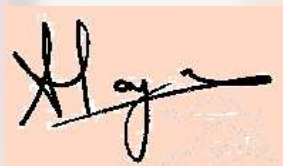
Mrs. Aruljothi Karunaratne – Served at the Nuffield School for 28 years as a teacher, Senior Assistant, and as Acting Principal. With her passing we have lost a part of the school's history, and a true friend of Nuffield.

Dr. Padman Ratnesar - ENT surgeon from the UK was a good friend, took special interest in the school and was a frequent visitor and advisor.

Acknowledgement

The Board of Trustees of the Ceylon School for the Deaf and Blind, wishes to thank all Organizations, Donors and Well Wishers, who rallied around to make life more meaningful for our students and also helped by way of donations, meal donations, grants, child sponsorships and other facilities for us to continue to operate the schools.

The Board also expresses its gratitude, to the Ministry of Education, the Provincial and Zonal Educational Offices, the Ministry of Social Services, and all other Governmental and Non-Governmental Agencies, for their financial and other assistance



Subhashini Meegama
Secretary, Board of Trustees