
Report of The Board of Trustees of the Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind 2023

A Legacy of Empowerment

The Board of Trustees of the Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind oversees three distinguished institutions dedicated to providing education, support, and empowerment to the visually and hearing-impaired community. Each institution has a unique history and mission, working in harmony to make a positive impact.

The School for the Deaf and Blind in Ratmalana, founded in 1912 by Miss Mary Chapman of the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society, this school was established to address the needs of individuals who were often neglected by society. Starting with only three teachers, the school now serves approximately 225 students, with about 80% residing on campus. Today, it offers comprehensive education, vocational training, sports, and hostel facilities, supported by a dedicated team of over 100 staff members.



The Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind in Kaithady, Jaffna, established in 1956 in the Jaffna District, the Nuffield School began with 18 students and 4 staff members to meet the educational needs of children in the North. It has since expanded to serve 130 students with a staff of 57. This institution plays a crucial role in providing educational opportunities and fostering inclusivity for the region's differently abled children.



Commitment to Free Education



The Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind, recognized as an approved charity, is committed to offering education, support, and extracurricular activities at no cost to students across all three schools. By eliminating fees for academic and hostel needs, the organization demonstrates its dedication to equal opportunities and breaking down barriers for visually and hearing-impaired students.

A Testament to Compassion and Community

The journey of the Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind highlights the transformative power of education, compassion, and community. From its modest beginnings to its significant impact today, these institutions continue to shape the lives of many visually and hearing-impaired children, standing as beacons of empowerment and inclusivity.

Schools Statistics

In recent years, the schools have faced unprecedented challenges but have successfully adapted to maintain a stable learning environment. The academic year's traditional structure was modified, with the three terms now diverging from their previous format. Despite these changes, the schools demonstrated flexibility and innovation, allowing students to adjust to revised schedules and remain engaged in their studies.

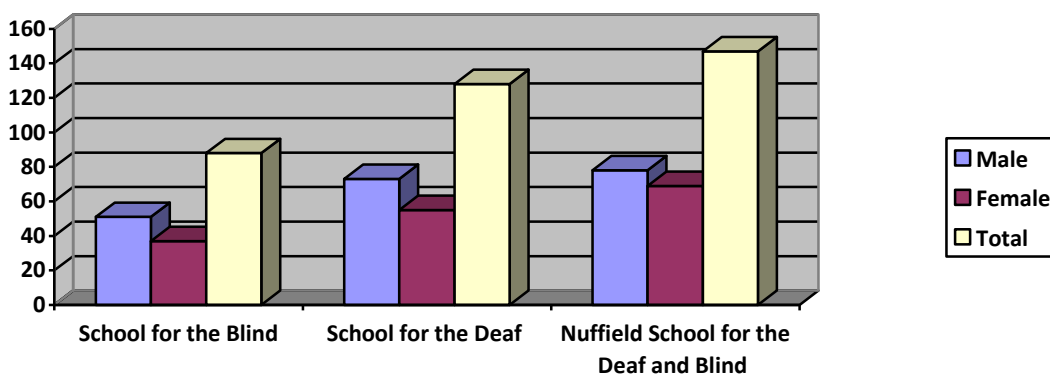
Examinations also experienced timing shifts due to evolving circumstances. Nevertheless, both students and educators exhibited exceptional adaptability, continuing to excel despite uncertainties.

Even with these challenges, the schools remained committed to education and vocational training, ensuring students continued to gain essential skills. The staff's dedication to supporting the development of visually and hearing-impaired children has been unwavering.

Overall, the year 2023 reflects a triumph of resilience and adaptability, with the schools successfully navigating obstacles and preparing students to achieve their goals with confidence.

Student Numbers as at December 31st 2023

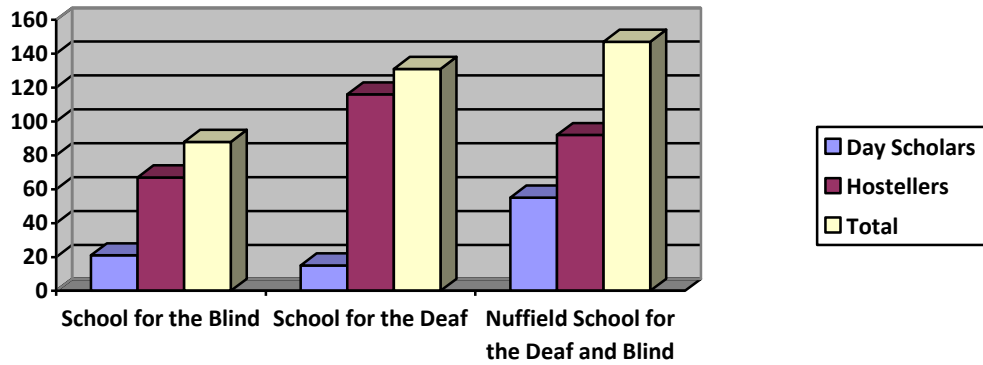
Gender	School for the Blind	School for the Deaf	Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind
Male	51	73	78
Female	37	58	69
Total	88	131	147



Number of Day Scholar Students and Hostellers

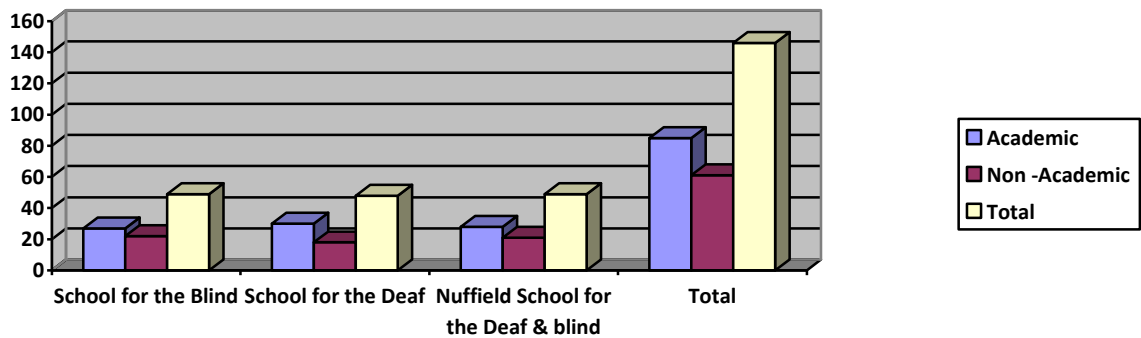
Gender	School for the Blind	School for the Deaf	Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind
Day Scholars	21	15	55

Hostellers	67	116	92
Total	88	131	147



Academic & Non-Academic Staff as at December 31st 2022

Category	School for the Blind	School for the Deaf	Nuffield School for the Deaf & blind	Total
Academic	27	30	28	85
Non - Academic	22	18	21	61
Total	49	48	49	146



The schools are supported by a government grant that primarily funds Approved teaching staff salaries, complemented by generous donations from individuals and organizations. Financial support is crucial for maintaining the schools' operations and providing comprehensive care to students.

Non-academic staff, which includes, cooks, hostel matrons and masters, caregivers, drivers, gardeners, sanitary workers, and office staff, essential for the schools' effective functioning are not funded by the grant. Donations play a critical role in covering their salaries thereby ensuring their vital contributions are recognized.

The non-academic staff members are integral to creating a supportive environment that enhances students' overall growth and well-being. Their responsibilities, ranging from providing nutritious meals to maintaining the facilities and supporting daily routines, help foster a nurturing atmosphere conducive to both academic and personal development.

Activities and Events of the Schools

Education

The Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind is dedicated to providing education of comparable quality to mainstream schools. The institutions follow a comprehensive curriculum that meets the educational standards of their peers, preparing students for a promising future. They offer education up to the G.C.E. Ordinary Level examination, adhering to Department of Education guidelines.

Students who pass the G.C.E. Ordinary Level examination can proceed to G.C.E. Advanced Level education at various Private and Government schools. Those who do not qualify have the option to either retake the G.C.E. O-Level examination or engage in vocational training, with support for job placements when possible. This approach underscores the schools' commitment to offering meaningful opportunities and ensuring students' continued growth and success.

School for the Blind

The School for the Blind recently launched a Student Exchange Program in collaboration with Bishops College, Ladies College, St. Thomas' College Mount Lavinia, and Hillwood College Kandy. This initiative aimed to promote Inclusive Education and expand learning opportunities for students from both participating schools. The interactions fostered greater awareness and mutual understanding among students. We extend our gratitude to the students and principals of these esteemed schools for their support and participation, which greatly contributed to the program's success.



Efforts were made to enhance Braille literacy skills, crucial for students' success in public exams and integration into society. Teachers conducted extra classes for students needing additional support. Given the challenges with English language skills, special measures were implemented to improve both spoken and written English, supported by volunteer-led activities.

To equip students with essential ICT skills, computer training was introduced, offering new opportunities for accessing information and expanding horizons for the visually impaired.

A motivational workshop was held by the University of Sri Jayawardenapura, featuring two past pupils who inspired current students to overcome motivational challenges.

Significant achievements include a student passing the Grade 5 Scholarship Examination with 143 marks in 2023.

Ten students from the School for the Blind sat for the G.C.E. O/L Examination, with eight successfully advancing to G.C.E. A/L classes at various schools. The School for the Blind

Ratmalana was commended by the Ministry of Education for surpassing a 75% pass rate in the 2022 G.C.E. O/L Examination, achieving an 80% pass rate in the Piliyandala Education Zone. Additionally, five past pupils who entered G.C.E. A/L programs at other schools have continued their education with notable success. Since 2013, 28 out of 32 students from the School for the Blind who pursued G.C.E. A/L have gained admission to various universities. We thank Principal and Staff for all these major achievements.

School for the Deaf

After years of diligent effort and perseverance by both students and teachers, one student from the School for the Deaf successfully passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level (O/L) examination. This achievement marked a significant milestone in her academic journey and reflected the commitment and hard work invested by all involved.

Despite this success, the student chose not to continue with the G.C.E. Advanced Level (A/L) studies. The extensive syllabus and academic demands of the A/L program presented challenges that she felt were beyond her capacity to manage effectively. Instead, she opted to enroll in the Bakery and Pastry Making Vocational Training class. This decision was motivated by her interest in acquiring practical skills and pursuing a career in this field.

This transition highlights the student's proactive approach in seeking alternative pathways that align with her strengths and interests. It also underscores the importance of providing diverse educational and vocational options to cater to the varied needs and aspirations of students. The School for the Deaf remains committed to supporting all students in finding and pursuing paths that will lead to their personal and professional success.

Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind

Nine deaf students sat for the Grade 5 Scholarship Examination from the Nuffield School. Out of these, four students achieved scores exceeding 110 marks. Notably, one student scored 144, narrowly missing the scholarship cut-off point of 145. This performance reflects a strong showing by the 2023 Scholarship class, highlighting the students' hard work and the effective preparation provided by their teachers.

The 2022 G.C.E. Ordinary Level (O/L) Examination results were impressive. Of the six students who took the exam for the first time, three achieved eight passes each, while two students secured seven passes. The remaining student obtained five passes. Remarkably, all nine students passed the Tamil Language exam, marking a significant achievement for the Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind as it was the first time this had been accomplished. This success underscores the students' dedication and the school's commitment to providing high-quality education and support.

Staff Training and Development

The commitment to staff training and development at the institution underscores a deep dedication to enhancing educational services and fostering an environment of continuous improvement. The schools understand that the quality of education and support provided to students is directly influenced by the expertise and effectiveness of their staff. As such, there is a strong emphasis on equipping staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in their roles.

Recognizing the dynamic nature of education, the schools actively encourage staff members to engage in professional development opportunities. These may include workshops, seminars, and training programs designed to update and expand their skills. This proactive approach ensures that educators and support staff are well-versed in the latest teaching methodologies, technologies, and best practices.

By investing in staff development, the institution aims to elevate the standard of teaching and learning. Staff members are supported in their efforts to enhance their professional competencies, which in turn contributes to a more effective and enriching educational experience for students. The emphasis on continuous learning and skill enhancement not only benefits the students but also fosters a culture of excellence and growth within the institution.

Overall, empowering staff through training and development reflects the institution's commitment to providing high-quality education and support. It ensures that both educators and support personnel are equipped to meet the evolving needs of students and contribute positively to their academic and personal growth.

School for the Blind

Academic Staff

- **Motivational Workshop:** A motivational workshop was conducted by the HR division of Brandix Corporate Campus for all teaching staff. This event was held at their premises and aimed to inspire and rejuvenate the educators.
- **Special Needs Education Workshop:** Teachers participated in a two-day workshop organized by the Special Needs Education Branch of the Ministry of Education. This training focused on enhancing their skills and knowledge in special education.
- **Teacher Training Completion:** Mr. Nadun Suraweera returned to the school in December after successfully completing a two-year Special Education Teacher Training program at the Balapitiya Training College, bringing valuable expertise back to the institution.
- **Seminars and Workshops:** Numerous teachers engaged in various seminars and workshops organized by the Divisional/Zonal Education Office throughout the year, contributing to their professional development.

Hostel Staff

- **Medical Awareness Program:** A medical awareness program was conducted by Panadura Base Hospital for the hostel staff. This program emphasized the importance of addressing common health issues faced by visually impaired children.
- **Medical Course and First Aid Training:** The Red Cross Society organized a medical course for the hostel staff, covering essential topics such as first aid, incident management, and the management of wounds and bleeding.
- **Para Medical Certification:** Miss Irashika Maduwanthi, the Sick Room matron, completed an extended course and obtained a Para Medical Certificate, enhancing her qualifications and ability to provide medical support.
- **Special Needs Students Workshop:** A workshop focusing on Special Needs Students was conducted for all hostel staff, aiming to improve their understanding and skills in supporting students with special needs.

- **English Language Improvement:** An English language workshop was held for hostel matrons to enhance their conversational skills. Additionally, a weekly spoken English class was organized to further improve their proficiency.



The School for the Deaf

- **Individual Education Plan Workshop:** A workshop on the 'Individual Education Plan' was conducted by Mrs. P.L.D. Theja, Deputy Director of Special Education, at the school premises. This session aimed to equip teachers with the skills necessary to develop and implement effective education plans tailored to individual student needs.
- **Art Seminar:** Mr. Roshana Mihiranga participated in an Art Seminar organized by the Piliyandala Zonal Office, focusing on integrating art into special education.
- **Nenasa Special Education Program:** Three teachers attended a one-week special education program titled "Nenasa," organized by the National Institute of Education (NIE). This program was designed to enhance their skills in preparing video lessons in Sign Language.
- **Special Education Circulars Seminar:** Mr. K.A.D. Punyadasa, Director of Non-Formal and Special Education from the Ministry of Education conducted a seminar on "Special Education Circulars" for the teaching staff, providing crucial updates and guidelines on special education policies.
- **Training Completion:** Mrs. Eranga Fernando completed her two-year training at Unawatuna Teachers Training College, furthering her expertise in special education.
- **Additional Training:** Numerous other training sessions were conducted throughout the year by the Zonal Education Office and the Ministry of Education, covering a range of subjects to support and enhance teachers' professional development.

The Nuffield School the Deaf & Blind

- **Efficiency Bar Examination:** Twelve teachers successfully passed the Efficiency Bar (EB) examination, demonstrating their proficiency and commitment to their professional roles.
- **Sign Language Course:** Twenty staff members participated in a Sign Language course offered by the National Institute of Education (NIE), enhancing their ability to communicate effectively with students.
- **Subject-Oriented Training:** Teachers attended specialized training sessions across various subjects, including Tamil, English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, Health & Nutrition, Art, Christianity, and Agriculture, to deepen their subject knowledge and teaching techniques.
- **National Exam Paper Marking:** Two teachers participated in national exam paper marking sessions, gaining valuable insights into assessment and performance evaluation.

- **Medical Student Program:** Twenty medical students from Jaffna University spent two weeks at the school, contributing to the improvement of teaching and learning through their engagement and expertise.
- **Special Education Diploma:** Three staff members completed their Special Education diploma, furthering their qualifications and expertise in the field.
- **Sign Language Book Development:** Eight staff members collaborated with the National Institute of Education (NIE) and the Social Services Department to develop educational books in Sign Language, enhancing resources for students.
- **Children's Rights Course:** Three staff members attended a course on Children's Rights, broadening their understanding of legal and ethical issues related to student welfare.
- **Teamwork and Leadership Training:** All staff participated in sessions focused on teamwork and leadership, aimed at strengthening collaborative skills and management capabilities.
- **Scouts and Girl Guiding Training:** Staff received training in Scouts and Girl Guiding, expanding their skills in youth development and extracurricular activities.

Vocational Training

In 2023, a diverse range of vocational training programs were offered to students from Grade 6 upwards. These programs aimed to equip students with practical skills required to enhance their career readiness and were designed to provide students with valuable skills that can open various career opportunities and support their personal development.

These vocational programs facilitated their transition into the workforce, highlighting the success of the training initiatives.

School for the Blind

- **Call Center Operation/Customer Experience:** Training focused on developing skills for effective communication and customer service in call center environments.
- **Creative Writing/Writer's Workshop:** A workshop designed to nurture students' writing abilities, fostering creativity and enhancing their literary skills.
- **Computer Repair:** Instruction on diagnosing and repairing computer issues, providing students with technical skills relevant to IT support roles.
- **Braille Writer Repair:** Training on the maintenance and repair of Braille writers, essential for ensuring the functionality of these important tools.
- **Piano Tuning:** Courses on piano tuning techniques, offering students skills for maintaining and restoring pianos.
- **Sewing:** Practical training in sewing, covering techniques for garment creation and repair.
- **Clay Work:** Instruction in clay modeling and pottery, allowing students to explore artistic expression through ceramics.
- **IT Classes:** Comprehensive classes covering various aspects of information technology, aimed at building foundational and advanced IT skills.

School for the Deaf

Vocational Training takes priority in the School for the Deaf. They offer,

- **Pastry and Bakery Course (TVEC NVQ Level 3):** This course offers students advanced skills in pastry and bakery, certified at NVQ Level 3, enabling them to pursue careers in the culinary field.
- **Graphic Designing Course:** Training in graphic design, focusing on visual communication and creative software, preparing students for roles in digital design and media.
- **Carpentry:** Practical carpentry classes that teach students skills in woodworking and construction, providing foundational knowledge for careers in carpentry and furniture making.
- **Hair Cutting & Beauty Culture:** A comprehensive course in hair cutting and beauty culture, including the complete refurbishment of the school's beauty culture room by the Girl Guides' Association. This refurbishment, sponsored by the Vineetha Foundation and supported by donations of cosmetics from British Cosmetics, helped align the facilities with NVQ Level standards.
- **Sewing:** A six-month sewing project in collaboration with Singer Sri Lanka marked a significant achievement. This initiative enhanced students' skills in garment construction and design, offering practical experience under the guidance of industry professionals.
- **Art:** The newly introduced "Art" vocational training aimed to empower students to create and sell personalized name boards and other artistic products. This initiative focused on developing practical techniques and entrepreneurial skills, enabling participants to generate income through their creative talents.
- **Photography:** Training in photography provided students with skills in capturing and editing images, preparing them for potential careers in visual media.

Employment Outcomes:

- **Hotel Ananthara, Tangalle:** Two students who completed the vocational training courses are now employed at Hotel Ananthara in Tangalle, utilizing their newly acquired skills in a professional setting.
- **Pizza Hut, Moratuwa:** One student has secured employment at Pizza Hut in Moratuwa, applying the skills gained from the training.

The Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind

For Hearing-Impaired Students:

- **Hospitality:** Training in hospitality, focusing on skills required for roles in the service industry, including customer service, food and beverage management, and hotel operations.
- **Home Science:** Courses in home science that cover various aspects of domestic skills, including cooking, household management, and personal care.
- **Poultry Farming:** Instruction in poultry farming, teaching students about raising and managing poultry, including feeding, health care, and business aspects.
- **Agriculture:** Training in agricultural practices with an emphasis on eco-friendly techniques. This includes hands-on experience with vertical gardens, raised bed gardens, worm farms, rotating compost bins and rainwater harvesting. This approach aims to build vocational skills while providing a solid foundation for students who may pursue academic pathways in the future.
- **Sewing:** Practical training in sewing, covering garment construction, repair, and design.

- **Candle Making:** Courses in candle making, teaching students the art of creating various types of candles and associated business skills.

For Visually Impaired Students:

- **Singing and Music:** Training in singing and music, focusing on developing musical talents and performance skills.
Training Schedule and Special Courses:
- **Evening Vocational Training:** Students from Grades 3, 4, and 6-11 attend vocational training lessons in the evenings, ensuring they gain practical skills alongside their regular academic studies.
- **Cookery Course:** Students who took the G.C.E. Ordinary Level exam participated in a three-month cookery course conducted by the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management. This course aimed to enhance their culinary skills and prepare them for careers in the food service industry.

The primary focus is on developing agricultural skills aligned with eco-friendly practices. This initiative is designed not only to provide vocational training but also to prepare students for potential academic pathways. By engaging in planning, construction, and maintenance of various sustainable agricultural practices, hearing-impaired students gain valuable hands-on experience that supports both their vocational and academic growth.



Sports

At the schools governed by the Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind, inclusivity and active participation are cornerstones of our educational philosophy. We are dedicated to creating an environment where visually, audibly and hearing impaired children can fully engage in a variety of events alongside their peers. Despite the inherent challenges, our schools are committed to offering diverse opportunities that allow students to showcase their talents and compete in a range of activities.

We emphasize the importance of an inclusive environment that fosters a sense of belonging for all students, by encouraging participation in events alongside their counterparts from other schools. We aim to break down barriers and promote mutual understanding. This approach not only helps our students explore their interests and develop their skills but also cultivates an atmosphere of respect and cooperation within the school community. Through these efforts, we strive to ensure that every student, regardless of their abilities, has the chance to shine and contribute to a vibrant, supportive educational setting.

School for the Blind

- **Cricket Program:** The cricket program was restructured to include practice sessions twice a week, conducted by a dedicated volunteer coach, enhancing the skills and team spirit of the students.
- **Swimming Squad:** Swimming practice is held once a week at the Prince of Wales College Swimming Pool. The program, sponsored by HOPE UK, is led by two certified swimming coaches. The "Learn to Swim" program resumed after a two-year hiatus, providing students with essential swimming skills and competitive opportunities.
- **Chess Classes:** Chess training sessions are conducted twice a week, fostering strategic thinking and concentration among students.
- **Athletics:** All students participated in the "Sunshine Games," a sports meet for differently abled children organized by the Rotary Club of Colombo Metropolitan. Additionally, the School Sports Meet for 2023, supported by Brandix, showcased students' athletic talents. The students also competed in the Western Province Special Education Sports Meet, where they performed exceptionally well.

School for the Deaf

- **Cricket:** Cricket practices are ongoing, and the annual "Battle of Silence" cricket tournament between the Ratmalana School for the Deaf and Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind in Kaithady, Jaffna, took place in October. The School for the Deaf emerged as the champions of this prestigious event.
- **Swimming:** Regular swimming lessons are conducted every Tuesday and Thursday, providing consistent training and skill development.
- **Netball:** Netball practice sessions are held twice a week, promoting teamwork and physical fitness.
- **Athletics:** Students participated in various athletics meets for differently abled individuals at inter-school, district, and national levels, demonstrating their athletic prowess and competitive spirit.

Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind

- **Athletics:** In March 2023, the annual Inter-House Sports Meet took place, showcasing the talents and competitive spirit of our students. The event featured a range of sports, including volleyball, football, netball, and cricket, as well as track events such as the 60m, 80m, 100m, and 200m sprints, and relay races (4x100m and 4x400m). The meet was a vibrant display of athleticism and team spirit, with students earning prizes and certificates to celebrate their achievements and victories.
- **Cricket:** In October 2023, the Nuffield School cricket team traveled to Colombo for a friendly match against the Ratmalana School for the Deaf. This engaging fixture provided an opportunity for students to compete in a supportive and spirited environment, strengthening inter-school relationships and fostering a love for the sport.



Extra-Curricular and Other Activities and Achievements

Extra-curricular activities play a crucial role in the holistic development of students. They offer valuable opportunities beyond the academic curriculum to enhance personal growth, social skills, and overall well-being. It develops a diverse set of skills, including leadership, teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. These activities provide a break from academic routines and allow students to explore their interests and passions. Engaging in group activities fosters social interaction, helping students build friendships, learn to work collaboratively, and develop empathy and respect for others. It encourages students to step out of their comfort zones, take on new challenges, and build self-confidence. They provide a platform for students to discover their strengths and areas for improvement. Physical activities, such as sports and dance, promote physical health and well-being. They also help reduce stress and improve mental health by providing a constructive outlet for energy and emotions.

Extra-curricular activities are integral to a well-rounded education, contributing significantly to students' personal and social development, academic performance, and overall life skills.

School for the Blind

- **All-Island Music Competition:** Shanya Kaumini of Grade 6 excelled in the All-Island Music Competition organized by the Ministry of Education, securing 1st place in the Western Province and 4th place at the all-island level.
- **Independence Day Celebrations:** Six students proudly participated in singing the National Anthem during the 75th Independence Day celebrations.
- **Concert Participation:** The Girl Guides took part in the concert "I Do It My Way," organized by the Differently Able Arm of the Guides at the Cinnamon Grand Hotel, highlighting their talents and dedication.
- **Student Parliament:** Two students represented the school in the Student Parliament organized by the Zonal Education Office, engaging in civic and leadership activities.
- **"Nuga Sevena" Program:** Three students participated in the "Nuga Sevena" program broadcasted by SL Rupavahini Corporation, showcasing their abilities and contributing to the media representation of differently abled individuals.
- **Regular Activities:** The school hosts a variety of extra and co-curricular activities on a weekly basis, including Sinhala debating, Western Band, Choir, Dancing, Scouting, and Guiding.
- **Sinhala Literary Day:** The Sinhala Literary Day was celebrated with participation from several other schools, fostering a rich exchange of literary and cultural experiences.
- **Inter-House Sinhala Debating Competition:** The Bouser House emerged as the champions in the Inter-House Sinhala Debating Competition, demonstrating exceptional debating skills and teamwork.
- **Educational Exhibition:** The school showcased the educational activities and challenges faced by visually



impaired students at the Educational Exhibition organized by Dharmaraja Maha Vidyalaya, Horana.

- **Girl Guides' Activities:** The Girl Guides celebrated their Thinking Day and the 98th Anniversary, participating in a leadership program for differently-abled Guides organized by the Guides of Methodist College Colombo 3.
- **Boy Scout Movement:** The Boy Scout Movement marked the World Chief Guide Day, celebrating the global scouting community.
- **Inter-House Debating Competition:** The students participated in an Inter-House Debating Competition, showcasing their debating skills and critical thinking abilities.
- **Choir Performances:** The Choir actively participated in several events, including the "Festival of Choirs" organized by the Bible Society, Hymn Night at St. Paul's Church Borella, the Choir Festival organized by the Holy Emmanuel Church, Moratuwa, and the Carols program organized by the Moratuwa Art Forum.
- **Western Band Performance:** The Western Band performed at the closing ceremony of the Western Province Special Education Sports Meet, warmly welcoming the Chief Guests and adding a musical touch to the event.

School for the Deaf

Girl Guiding and Scouting Achievements

- **Leadership Camp:** Mrs. Lakmini de Silva participated in a four-day leadership camp at the Girl Guide Training Centre in Ganemulla. This camp provided valuable training and development opportunities, enhancing her skills as a guide leader.
- **City Tour:** All Girl Guides, accompanied by four teachers, went on an educational tour around Colombo city. This excursion aimed to broaden their experiences and provide cultural enrichment.
- **New Leader Appointment:** Ms. Roomini Ranshika, a teacher at the School for the Deaf, was appointed as a new Girl Guide leader. This recognition was celebrated at a formal function held at Princess of Wales College, Moratuwa, highlighting her commitment to the guiding movement.
- **Cooking Competition:** The Girl Guides, along with two teachers, participated in the "Master Chef" cooking competition at the Hotel School in Colombo 3. This event, organized by the Girl Guide Association, showcased their culinary skills and creativity.
- **Awards Ceremony:** The Girl Guides' awarding ceremony took place at the school premises, where 28 new guides were honored for their achievements and dedication, marking a significant milestone in their guiding journey.
- **Scouting:** Two teachers, Mr. R. M. Hewage and Mr. W. S. Dharshana, participated in the "Phase IV" wood badge camp at Mirigama over two days. This advanced training camp was essential for further developing their skills and leadership capabilities in scouting.

Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind

- **Weekly Extracurricular Activities:** Students have the opportunity to engage in a variety of weekly extracurricular activities, including Dancing, Karate, and Games such as chess, mastermind, and carom. These activities are designed to foster essential skills such as leadership, teamwork, adaptability, problem-solving, and creative thinking thus providing students with a well-rounded educational experience.

- **Primary Students' Trip to Trincomalee:** Primary students embarked on a three-day educational trip to Trincomalee. The itinerary included visits to several key industrial sites, such as the salt factory in Elephant Pass, the mineral factory in Pulmoddai, the cement factory, and the Prima flour factory. This trip was particularly impactful as it allowed students, some of whom had never seen a river before, to experience natural features like rivers, natural harbors, and hot springs for the first time. This exposure enriched their understanding of geography and industry.
- **Secondary Students' Trip to Colombo:** Secondary students participated in a five-day trip to Colombo, where they explored a range of significant locations. The students visited the Parliament, Rupavahini (the national television station), the Zoo, Ja-Ela NERD Technology, and engaged in sightseeing activities. This trip provided valuable real-world experiences, enhancing their learning through direct observation and interaction with various aspects of city life and technology.

Both trips were deemed successful as they offered practical learning experiences, allowing students to gain firsthand knowledge and insights that complement their classroom education. The notes and experiences gathered during these excursions contribute significantly to their academic and personal growth.

Important School Events

School for the Blind

- **Orientation/Welcome Program:** For the first time in the school's history, an Orientation/Welcome Program was organized for new students enrolling in Grades 1-9 for the 2023 academic year. This program aimed to integrate new students smoothly into the school community and provide them with essential information about their new environment.
- **Induction of New Principal:** On June 14th, Mrs. Nelumnika Perera was formally inducted as the new Principal. The ceremony was presided over by Rt. Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo, Bishop of Colombo, marking a significant leadership transition at the school.
- **111th Founder's Day Celebration:** The 111th Founder's Day was celebrated by both Ratmalana schools with a commemorative walk from the Chapel of the Holy Child to the Deaf School. This event highlighted the historical significance and ongoing legacy of the schools.
- **Annual Inter-House Sports Meet:** The Annual Inter-House Sports Meet took place in July, fostering school spirit and promoting physical fitness through competitive sports events among the different houses.
- **Annual School Prize Giving:** The Annual Prize Giving Ceremony featured Mr. Ishan Jaleel, a distinguished past pupil, as the Chief Guest. This event celebrated the academic and extracurricular achievements of the students throughout the year.
- **Annual Christmas Joint Carol Program:** The Annual Christmas Carol Program was held in December at the Chapel of the Holy Child. This joint event brought together the school community in a festive celebration of music and the Christmas spirit.



- **Music Workshop:** Students participated in a transformative music workshop conducted by esteemed music educators from the USA and the Far East. Under the leadership of Prof. Andre de Quadros during their one-week residency at the Sama Choral Festival, this workshop aimed to harness the power of music to create an enriching experience for the students.

School for the Deaf

- **Annual Avurudhu Pola and Festival:** In April, the school celebrated the traditional Avurudhu festival with a vibrant Avurudhu Pola (fair). This event featured cultural activities, games, and traditional foods, bringing together students, staff, and the community in festive spirit.
- **Founder's Day Celebration:** The Founder's Day was commemorated in collaboration with the School for the Blind, reflecting the shared history and partnership between the institutions. This celebration honored the founders and the enduring legacy of both schools.
- **Teachers' Day and Children's Day:** Both Teachers' Day and Children's Day were celebrated with activities and events designed to recognize and appreciate the contributions of teachers and the achievements of students.
- **Christmas Carol Service and Party:** The annual Carol Service was held jointly with the School for the Blind, featuring festive music and celebrations. Following the service, a Students' Christmas Party was organized, providing a joyful and engaging experience for all attendees.
- **Educational Excursion:** In June, students embarked on their annual educational excursion, visiting Kataragama and Colombo. This trip offered valuable learning experiences and exposure to new environments and cultural sites.
- **Parliament Visit:** Students from Grade 6 upwards, accompanied by the Principal and staff, were invited to attend a parliamentary session. This opportunity provided insights into governmental processes and encouraged civic engagement.
- **World Children's Day Celebration:** Students from Grades 9-11 participated in World Children's Day celebrations in Kandy with the team "Sahodera Manudama," engaging in activities that promoted children's rights and well-being.
- **Ship Visit:** Students from Grades 3-8 had the unique opportunity to visit a ship, an excursion organized by Sri Lankan Airlines. This experience offered a practical understanding of maritime operations and expanded their horizons.

Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind

- **Art and Graphic Design Exhibition:** The school hosted an Art and Graphic Design Exhibition, showcasing a diverse range of student artworks. The exhibition featured pencil drawings, crayon work, and water paintings, reflecting the artistic talents and creativity of the students. Graphic design materials were also displayed, highlighting students' skills in visual communication.
- **Mathematics Competition:** On November 22, 2023, students participated in a Mathematics Competition, focusing on time-based calculations. This event encouraged students to sharpen their mathematical skills and engage in friendly competition with their peers.
- **Science Exhibition:** The Science Exhibition provided a platform for students to present various scientific concepts and experiments. Highlights included demonstrations of

volcanic eruptions and other engaging science projects, illustrating students' understanding and creativity in the field of science.

- **Carol Service:** The December 2023 Carol Service, titled "In Our Way," was designed to be inclusive, allowing hearing-impaired students to play a central role. This event combined festive music and performances with an emphasis on accessibility, celebrating the contributions of all students.
- **Celebrations of Special Days:** The school observed several special days to promote inclusivity and recognize important causes. Celebrations included Disabled Day, White Cane Day, Children's Day, and Teachers' Day, each highlighting different aspects of the school community and fostering a supportive environment.

Schools Health, Welfare, Infrastructure Development & Maintenance

Health and Welfare

The School for the Deaf has undertaken significant initiatives to enhance the living conditions and facilities within its hostels, focusing on creating a safe and comfortable environment for students. These improvements are designed to ensure the well-being and health of the students, and several key initiatives have been implemented to support this goal.

School for the Blind

- **Health and Dental Checkups:** Regular health and dental inspections were conducted by the staff of the University Hospital of the Kotelawala Defense University, ensuring ongoing medical care and monitoring.
- **Medical Health Camp:** A comprehensive medical health camp was organized under the supervision of physicians from the Ministry of Health, providing essential health services and screenings for students.
- **Sexual Education Awareness Program:** In collaboration with the Save the Children Foundation, an awareness program on sexual education was held for students, academic staff, and hostel staff.
- **Educational and Recreational Outings:**
 - ✓ Primary school children were taken on excursions to Mount Lavinia Beach, Vihara Maha Devi Park, and the Zoo, offering them enriching and enjoyable experiences.
 - ✓ Students from Grades 6-9 attended a movie screening of *Gajaman*, providing an immersive audio experience and introducing them to the dynamics of film.
 - ✓ Grades 10 and 11 students visited the Gannoruwa Agriculture Centre, gaining practical insights into agricultural practices.
 - ✓ Post Ordinary Level 2022 students enjoyed a celebratory day tour to Wiluda Wila, where they participated in a leadership workshop and engaging activities, marking the completion of their exams with a focus on leadership and personal growth.

School for the Deaf

Improvements have been made to the hostels and general living conditions for students to ensure a more supportive and comfortable environment. These enhancements aim to create a conducive atmosphere for both academic and personal development.

To further support the health and well-being of students, several initiatives have been introduced.

- **Health and Fitness Programs:** A dedicated 2-hour Physical Education program was conducted for Grades 9 and 10 by lecturers and students from Jayewardeneperu University. This program focused on physical fitness, promoting healthy lifestyles, and encouraging active participation in sports and exercise. The initiative not only aimed to improve the students' physical health but also sought to foster teamwork, discipline, and personal growth through structured physical activities.

Overall, these efforts are part of a broader strategy to enhance the quality of life for students, ensuring that they receive both the support and resources necessary for their overall well-being and development.

Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind

Nuffield School's commitment to the holistic well-being of its students is evident through various support services and improvements.

- **Comprehensive Healthcare:** Students at Nuffield School, who come from diverse regions across Sri Lanka, benefit from extensive health care provided by the Jaffna Teaching Hospital. This includes essential services such as ear and eye examinations, dental care, skin treatments, and medical attention for any other health issues that may arise throughout the year.
- **Mental and Emotional Support:** A dedicated counselor is available to address the mental and emotional well-being of the students. This support is crucial for helping students manage stress, build resilience, and maintain a positive outlook.
- **Speech Therapy:** The school employs two Speech Therapists and two Speech Therapy Assistants who play a pivotal role in helping hearing-impaired students develop communication skills. Their work supports the integration of these students into broader society by enhancing their ability to interact effectively and confidently.
- **Supportive Environment:** The school ensures that urgent needs are met promptly and strives to create a nurturing home-like environment. Regular outings and activities are organized to support students' mental and emotional health, providing them with enriching experiences outside the classroom.

These initiatives collectively contribute to fostering a supportive and enriching environment that addresses both the physical and emotional needs of the students.



Infrastructure Development & Maintenance

Despite financial constraints, the schools undertook substantial infrastructure development projects aimed at significantly enhancing facilities and amenities. These initiatives were designed to create a more conducive and supportive learning environment for students, reflecting the schools' commitment to improving educational experiences and outcomes.

School for the Blind

- **Senior Boys and Intermediate Boys Hostels:** Repair work was conducted with the support of a donor and a team of Navy personnel.
- **Electrical System Renovation:** The electricity systems of the Senior Boys Hostel and Junior Boys Hostel, along with the Borupana Roadside fence and office wall color wash, were renovated by the Sri Lankan Navy and a sponsor.
- **Senior Girls Washroom:** The renovations of the roofing and color washing of the bathing rooms were completed by Maliban Biscuits Pvt. Ltd.
- **Hostel Dining Room:** Repairs and painting was completed by Maliban Biscuits Pvt. Ltd.
- **Computer Room:** Brandix Apparel Ltd provided a fully refurbished computer room with new computers, enhancing the school's technological resources.
- **Classroom Painting:** Taj Hotels employees painted two classrooms, Grade 11 and the mathematics room, as part of their CSR project.
- **Classroom Renovations:** The renovation of Grades 6, 7, and 8 classrooms was carried out by the Sri Lankan Navy with donor sponsorship.
- **Whiteboards:** Large whiteboards were installed in all classes to assist partially sighted students.
- **Music Rooms:** HNB Assurance PLC donated musical instruments and funded the renovation of two music rooms.

School for the Deaf

- **Dialog Audiology Center:** The roof and washrooms were renovated by Dialog Axiata.
- **Stanley House Hostel:** Roof repairs were completed with a donation from Mr. Kannan.
- **Classroom Color Washing:** Grade 8/9 classrooms were color washed, sponsored by Mr. Krishan de Mel.
- **Primary Section:** The color wash of the primary section was completed with donations from Mr. Richard and a team of volunteers from the UK.
- **Art Room:** The color washing and installation of a new door were sponsored by Ms. S. Gunewardena.
- **Building Re-wiring:** Some buildings underwent re-wiring by the Ceylon Electricity Board Welfare Society.
- **Principal's Quarters:** Renovations were carried out with donations from well-wishers.

- **Additional Repairs:** New door locks for the sick room and warden's quarters, ceiling and water line repairs in the bakery building, downpipe replacement in the Oxfam building, and roof repairs in the Maruthappa building were completed with donations.

Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind

- **Sewerage Pits:** Four sewerage pits were reconstructed.
- **Principal's Quarters:** Renovation work commenced.
- **Rainwater Harvesting Tanks:** Construction started in December, funded generously by the Canadian High Commission, to address water needs during the hot season.

Societies / Associations

Fostering a strong sense of community and camaraderie, the schools actively participate in a range of societies and associations. These engagements are crucial in promoting the school's growth, enhancing support for students and staff, and building a collaborative environment that enriches the educational experience. By actively involving themselves in these networks, the schools strengthen their connections with external partners, which in turn supports the development of their educational programs and initiatives.

School for the Blind

Past Pupils' Association (PPA)

The Past Pupils' Association (PPA) organized its Annual General Meeting (AGM), which was followed by a luncheon and a friendly cricket match between past and current students. Additionally, degree holders from the PPA engaged in a productive meeting with the principal to discuss various school-related matters and contribute to the ongoing development of the institution.

Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)

The PTA held its AGM in January and convened three times throughout the year. These meetings facilitated effective communication between parents and teachers, fostering collaboration to support the school's objectives and address any issues impacting the educational environment.

Welfare Association

In December, the Welfare Association successfully organized a fair at the school premises. The event drew many buyers and sellers, offering a vibrant marketplace that contributed to the school's community spirit and provided an opportunity for local engagement.

School for the Deaf

School Development Society (SDS)

The School Development Society (SDS) organized a memorable farewell ceremony for Ms. Samantha Jayasuriya, the former Principal, in recognition of her outstanding dedication and service to the school. Ms. Jayasuriya's tenure was distinguished by significant achievements and a profound commitment to advancing the school's mission. Her leadership not only fostered a positive learning environment but also significantly enhanced academic excellence, leaving a legacy that continues to inspire the school community.

Nuffield School for the Deaf & Blind

Past Pupils Association of the Deaf (PPAD)

The Past Pupils Association of the Deaf (PPAD) maintained active engagement with the school throughout the year. Alumni frequently visited the school to connect with current students, fostering a sense of continuity and community. They organized and participated in friendly netball and cricket matches, creating opportunities for past and present students to collaborate and share experiences. These events not only strengthen the bond between alumni and the school but also serve to inspire and support the current student body.

Appointments, Retirements & Resignations

The Board of Trustees of the Ceylon School for the Deaf and Blind extends a warm welcome to all new staff members, expressing gratitude for their commitment to the institution. They also acknowledge and thank those who have retired or resigned for their dedicated service, wishing them continued success and fulfillment in their future endeavors.

School for the Blind

The school warmly welcomed Mrs. Nelumnika Perera as the new Principal and Mr. Sanchitha Wickremesooriya as the Acting Principal. The Board of Trustees and the entire school community express their heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Perera for her commitment to enhancing the lives of both staff and students. We also acknowledge Mr. Wickremesooriya's significant impact during his brief tenure, which greatly benefited the school community. Additionally, we extend a warm welcome to Mr. Shevan Jayasinghe as he joins our team.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Ms. Ann Mendis and Ms. Himashi Wimalasurendra for their valuable contributions as academic staff. Their dedication and service have been deeply appreciated, and we wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

School for the Deaf

The school bid a fond farewell to Mrs. Anita Weerasena, who retired on December 31, 2023. With a distinguished career spanning 38 years, Mrs. Weerasena's unwavering dedication and exemplary professionalism have left a lasting legacy at the School for the Deaf. Her tenure as a teacher was marked by commitment and excellence, and she rose to the challenge of serving as Acting Principal with remarkable skill and determination. During her time as Acting Principal, she successfully reopened the Carpentry Unit and organized a joint Art Exhibition at the A. D. Perera Auditorium, inviting both the School for the Blind and the Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind to participate. This event was a resounding success, inspiring and motivating all students. Under her leadership, the school achieved a significant milestone with one of its students passing eight subjects at the GCE O/L exam, including four credit passes—a notable academic achievement.

The school also extended its gratitude to Ms. Malani Indralatha, who retired after 33 years, Ms. Lina Weerasinghe, who retired after 23 years and Mr. R. M. S. Bandara, who also retired after 23 years. Each of these individuals contributed their skills and passion to the school,

leaving behind a legacy of excellence and dedication. Their remarkable service and commitment to their students will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind

The school warmly welcomed Mr. V. Partheepan, who joined as a Speech Therapist, bringing valuable expertise to support the students' communication needs.

In addition, Ms. S. Papitha was appointed as an Assistant Speech Therapist, contributing to the expanding support for our students.

At the same time, we bid farewell to Ms. S. Yalini, Assistant Speech Therapist, whose dedication and contributions have greatly benefited the students. Her presence and commitment will be deeply missed as she moves on to new endeavors.

Finance and Funding

Income & Expenditure

The following report offers a detailed account of the financial performance, fundraising initiatives, and meal donations program at the Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind for the year 2023. This comprehensive overview underscores the institution's unwavering commitment to the well-being and education of its students, even in the face of challenging circumstances. The report reflects our dedication to maintaining high standards of care and support, ensuring that every student receives the necessary resources and opportunities to thrive.

Financial Analysis

The annual financial statement for 2023 provides an in-depth examination of the institution's financial health. The total income for the year amounted to Rs. 251,730,803/-, while total expenditure reached Rs. 260,019,007/-. This resulted in a deficit of Rs. 8,288,204/-, reflecting the ongoing challenges in balancing resources with the growing needs of the institution.

The budget for the year projected an income of Rs. 179,588,485/- and expenditure of Rs. 179,406,422/-. While the actual income exceeded the budgeted figure by Rs. 72,142,318/-, the expenditure also surpassed the budgeted amount by Rs. 80,612,585/-. This variance highlights both the institution's ability to secure additional funding and the increased costs incurred over the year.

These financial figures illustrate the institution's commitment to expanding and enhancing its services despite the financial pressures. The analysis indicates a proactive approach to managing finances, with efforts to address the shortfall through strategic budgeting, fundraising activities, and cost control measures. Moving forward, the institution will continue to focus on optimizing its financial strategies to ensure sustained support for its mission and objectives.

Fundraising Efforts and Meal Donations and Sponsor a Child Program

Amidst a challenging economic climate, the Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind received steadfast support from its dedicated donors and well-wishers. Despite the absence of major fundraising events, the unwavering commitment of the school's supporters ensured the

institution's continued progress and stability throughout the year. This remarkable resilience not only underscores the critical role the school plays within the community but also reflects the deep-seated value and trust that the community places in its mission and work.

Meal Donations Program

Recognizing the financial burden of providing meals for the residential students, a Meal Donations program was established. Meal Coordinators for each school location ensured the smooth functioning of this vital program. In 2023, donations for meals amounted to Rs. 19,479,480/- for the two Ratmalana schools and Rs. 20,419,757/- for the Nuffield School in Jaffna. Expenditure for the Ratmalana Schools were, Rs. 27,139,990/- and Rs. 14,962,325/- was the expenditure for the Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind.

The year 2023 was marked by resilience, determination, and community support for the Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind. Despite financial constraints and logistical challenges, the institution persevered in its mission to provide quality education and care to its students. As we move forward, we remain committed to our cause, fueled by the generosity and compassion of our supporters.

Sponsor a Child Program

The "Sponsor a Child" Program is a heartfelt initiative designed to provide crucial support to the students at the Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind. This ongoing project aims to raise funds to cover the comprehensive needs of our students, ensuring they receive the best education, vocational training, accommodation, meals, and welfare, all at no cost to their families.

Education is a transformative gift, and through the Sponsor a Child Program, donors play a pivotal role in making this gift possible. By sponsoring a student, donors directly contribute to covering the expenses associated with their education and daily needs. This support ensures that every child, regardless of their background, has access to the opportunities they deserve.

Our vision is to secure sponsors for each of our students, thereby providing a stable and supportive environment for their growth and development. The program has been instrumental in funding essential services and resources that empower our students to thrive.

In 2023, the Sponsor a Child Program raised a remarkable Rs. 11,933,482/-. This generous support has made a significant impact, allowing us to continue offering high-quality education and comprehensive care to our students. It is through the compassion and dedication of our donors that we are able to uphold our commitment to these children and provide them with the tools they need to achieve their full potential.

Every contribution to the Sponsor a Child Program is more than just financial support; it is a beacon of hope and a testament to the power of community and generosity. We are deeply grateful to all our sponsors for their unwavering support and for helping us create a brighter future for every child at the Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind.

Ratmalana Audiology Centre (RAC)

Ratmalana Audiology Centre

Established in 2007 through a generous donation from Dialog Axiata PLC, the Ratmalana Audiology Centre is a vital resource for individuals facing hearing loss, speech, and language

challenges. Located on the grounds of the Ceylon School for the Deaf and Blind in Ratmalana, the Centre serves both the school's students and the broader community.

This non-profit organization provides personalized services, including hearing tests, hearing aid support, speech and language therapy, special education sessions, and workshops for parents and teachers. Dialog Axiata PLC's contribution exemplifies corporate social responsibility, creating a lasting positive impact on many lives. The Ceylon School for the Deaf and Blind deeply appreciates the Centre's role in enhancing the educational experience and supporting individuals beyond its campus.

Speech and Language Therapy Centre, Kaithady, Jaffna

Located at the Nuffield School and funded by Dialog Axiata PLC, the Speech and Language Therapy Centre in Kaithady, Jaffna, plays a crucial role in addressing the speech therapy needs of children. The Centre is committed to helping children overcome communication challenges and realize their full potential through tailored interventions.

The Centre's approach includes awareness programs, workshops, and seminars to engage with the community and raise awareness about speech and language issues. This proactive engagement has led to an increase in referrals from hospitals and doctors across the Northern Region, underscoring the Centre's success and its positive impact on the local community.

Acknowledgements

The Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind extends its deepest gratitude to all those who have supported its mission and contributed to the growth and well-being of its students. Your invaluable contributions have significantly enhanced the lives of those we serve.

We sincerely thank the numerous organizations, donors, and well-wishers whose generous cash donations, in-kind gifts, meal provisions, and grants have been crucial in sustaining the school's operations. Your steadfast support, especially during challenging times, underscores the strength of our community and their commitment to our mission.

Our appreciation also goes to the Ministry of Education, Provincial and Zonal Educational Offices, the Ministry of Social Services, MOH Officers, PHI Officers, and both governmental and non-governmental institutions. Their financial support and assistance have been instrumental in advancing the school's initiatives.

The Board of Trustees expresses heartfelt thanks to the entire school community, including Principals, Teachers, Office Staff, Caregivers, Cooks, Gardeners, Watchers, Drivers, Volunteers, and Head Office staff. Your dedication and hard work have created a nurturing and empowering environment for our students.

The Ceylon School for the Deaf & Blind acknowledges that its achievements are the result of the collective effort and unwavering support of countless individuals and organizations. This collaboration enables us to provide quality education, care, and empowerment to visually and hearing-impaired children. We are profoundly grateful for the impact each contributor has made on our journey.



Subhashini Meegama

Secretary

Board of Trustees

Project Coordinator CSDB