

Sambhota Tibetan School, Pokhriabong



Sambhota Tibetan School Pokhriabong is a primary school with residential facilities situated in Darjeeling district in the State of West Bengal. Located 32 kilometres distance from Darjeeling town, the school is situated in scenic surroundings amidst hills and tea gardens at an altitude of 1750 meters above sea level. The nearest railway head is New Jalpaiguri, which is about 100 kilometers away from school. The school was established on April 15, 1981 with 50 children and has a total land area of about 4 acres. The temperature in the summer normally remains at an average of 26-28 degrees Celsius and in the winter it falls down to an average of 10 degrees.

Just like all other primary schools under the umbrella of Sambhota Tibetan Schools Administration, the school follows a similar curriculum. The Montessori classes are always given primary attention. They normally learn very basic and appropriate skills like talking, singing, dancing, social behavior, sketching on blank paper etc. In addition, children are regularly taken out into woods for nature-walk. From the academic point of view, the children learn elementary skills of reading and writing Tibetan scripts, numericals in English as well as in Tibetan. Most of the learning is done through play-way method where children are exposed to as many learning aids as possible. At Classes I to V five main subjects viz. Tibetan, English, Maths, Social Science and General Science are taught. In addition, they learn games, sports, dance, drama, drawing and social skills.

Co-curricular activities are given as much importance as is given to academic studies. There are three houses – Lhasa, Potala and Norling. Inter-house and inter-class competitions in spelling-bee, handwriting, poetry, quiz, reading, essay writing and so on are organized as per annual school calendar. Since the school has both flower and vegetable gardens, children interested in learning gardening skills have plenty of opportunity to learn these skills in the school campus.

The main strength of the school is its location within a major Tibetan settlement in North India, which makes possible a large degree of parental and community involvement in the education and running of the school. The school benefits greatly from the local resources in its efforts to transmit culture and sense of identity to the children. One of the major strengths of the school is the rich and engaging program of sports and co-curricular activities offered to the students.

The school has five blocks that houses most of its basic infrastructure. The oldest building, which was constructed some 24 years ago, houses office space, library, staff room, dispensary, multipurpose hall, canteen, school temple and two storage rooms. The multipurpose hall has the capacity to accommodate 500 people. Another old school building have classrooms for montessori to Class V, dormitory for boys, a trunk house, and a construction materials storeroom.

A new building completed in 2003 houses school's main kitchen, dinning hall which can accomodate at least 250 children, two large dormitories for girls with attached toilet and bathrooms, a guest house, two stores for ration and two staff quarter. Her Excellency the Ambassador of Austria inaugurated this building in March 2003.

The school has a spacious football ground, a basketball court, pavilion with a seating capacity of 400 spectators and a large children's park.

The annual examination result for the year 2005 was 85%. The children after completing their Class V from the school are sent to CST Kalimpong to continue their studies. The school has consistently bagged top three positions since last four years in the Inter-school Tibetan Handwriting competition organized annually by the Manjushree Institute of Tibetan Studies, Darjeeling. Currently, there are 108 students and 19 staff. Mr. Kelsang Dawa is the headmaster of the school.