

Shamrock School - Pokhara, Nepal

Shamrock is a privately funded boarding school for 50 under-privileged, but academically gifted Nepalese students, aged 10-16.

Shamrock was established in 2006 with seed funding from a retired UK Army Colonel, Duncan Cradden. Mr. Cradden has continued to support the school since its inception. The school costs around AUD100,000 p.a. to operate.

The school is funded by a charity trust - the Shamrock Education Trust. It receives no government funding.

The school accepts children on the basis of two criteria:

1. the family is unable to financially support their child through school; and
2. the child is educationally talented.

Students are drawn mainly from the greater Pokhara region of Nepal. Pokhara, which is nestled in the foothills of the Annapurna region of the Himalayas, is the second largest city in Nepal.

Some of the children at Shamrock are orphans; others have parents who are too old, too sick or too poor to afford a decent schooling for their gifted youngsters.

School Structure

The school has a manager, Michael Newton - a retired British expat volunteer who has been appointed by the UK founders to ensure the school is operated and managed according to its charter.

The school has six full-time teachers (the Principal and five others) and five warden teachers, who are mainly ex-students now doing further study elsewhere. The warden teachers are provided accommodation, and in return provide teaching support and non-school hours supervision.

The school is registered as an NGO (non-profit organisation that operates independently of any government) and is governed by a local Board of Management, which comprises the Principal and three other local Nepalese people.



Above: View of Annapurnas from Phewa Lake, Pokhara

With a number of the students going on to further education and returning to the school as teachers, Shamrock provides the ultimate virtuous circle of hope for current and future Nepali generations.



Above: Pupils from the Shamrock School