**FAQs**

**Q1. How old is the school?**

During the decade of our existence we have grown from a pre school and have been adding one grade level every year. Our first batch of 10th graders will graduate in March 2020.

**Q2. To which board is the school affiliated?**

The school is registered with the Karnataka Government for Preschool to Grade 8. DISE no: DSC#29200417402. Our application for affiliation to CBSE board has been provisionally accepted and we are awaiting final affiliation, which is expected before the start of the next session 2018-19.

**Q3. How strong is the Parent-School Connect?**

Saandeepani believes that parents are an integral part of the schooling system and positively impact learning outcomes of a child. We have accordingly designed a framework which provides opportunities for parents to engage with the school and contribute to the overall development of the school. We have multiple forums for parent interface as given below

Saandeepani regularly engages with the Parent Community through –

* + Parent Orientation at the beginning of the year
  + 4 Scheduled PTMs per annum
  + 2 Round Table Meetings per annum (connecting Parents directly with the

Management)

* + 2 Parent-Interaction-Programs per annum (for the Preschool)
  + Project Presentations and School Events like Sports Day and Annual Day.
  + **School Management Committee** (SMC) – Elected members of the Parent Community are part of the SMC
  + **Safety and Security Committee** (SSC) – Parents are invited to be members of the SSC to

**Q4. What is the school strength and Teacher:Student Ratio?**

At Saandeepani, individual care and attention to every student is our top priority. To ensure this we are committed to remaining a school with limited admissions. Currently we have about 400 students and plan to expand to a maximum capacity of 650 students, as we grow the school to grade 10.

Our Teacher Student ratio reflects our philosophy, as can be seen from the table below

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Grade Level | Number of Sections | Maximum students per section | Number of adults per section |
| Preschool | 3 | 15-17 | 1 teacher + 1 assistant |
| Grades 1 & 2 | 2 | 25 | 1 teacher + 1 assistant |
| Grades 3 & above | 2 | 25 | 1 teacher per subject |

**Q5. What are the school timings?**

Playgroup 9:45am -12:30pm Mon-Fri

Nur, JrKG, SrKG 8:15am -12:30pm Mon-Fri

Grades 1- 10 8:15am -3:15pm Mon-Fri

Grades 8-10 8:15am -12:30pm 2 Sat / month

**Q6. What are the qualifications of our teachers and what is the recruitment process like?**

Given that our pedagogy is based on creating a joyful learning environment through activity based researched methodology we give the highest priority to attracting and hiring the best talent. Recruitment of teachers follows a stringent process and after due diligence teachers are first appointed as trainees

Preschool teachers are graduates with an NTT certification (Nursery Teacher Training)

Primary, Middle and High School teachers are graduates with a BEd degree and several of them have Post-graduate degrees.

As a school we believe in continuous learning and teachers are no exception.

Saandeepani invests in teacher training and development by organizing year-round workshops in school. In addition to ‘on the job’ training through our teacher mentorship program, our teachers are also sent to various professional development workshops and conferences across the country.

We are closely associated with Azim Premji University and regularly attend workshops organised by them.

**Q7. How does Saandeepani ensure Safety and Security for its students and staff?**

Saandeepani has in place all the safety measures for schools specified by the Government of Karnataka.

1. Entry, Perimeter and Campus security is ensured by security guards, CCTV cameras, electric fencing (for overnight security), designated vigilance officer and alert teaching and non-teaching staff.
2. Periodic trainings and audits ensure standards are maintained without any lapses.
3. All personnel have to undergo police verification, background checks and psychometric tests.
4. Vans are owned by the school and are driven by drivers employed by the school. Drivers are periodically trained on safe driving practices and appropriate behavior. All vans have female support staff on every trip. Vans are also fitted with GPS tracking devices; van location can be tracked by school and parents on a mobile app. CCTV cameras are fitted on the school vans.
5. Workshops are organized every year for students, teachers, non-teaching staff and parents on personal safety.

**Q8. How does Saandeepani Ensure that the students learn life skills?**

Our philosophy is “Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you respond to it”. To ensure that our students learn how to respond to life situations we have a strong, integrated, life-skills programme. All our lesson plans are designed to give students opportunities to hone their decision making, problem solving, thinking and communication skills. Emphasis is also laid on building interpersonal relations, self-awareness, and empathy. Helping them give the right expression to their emotions helps them cope with stress. *Ekaant* time every morning helps in forming habits of mind - to gather their thoughts and get prepared for a day of learning.

Our Mission statement captures the essence of the life skills which we prioritise:

**" Empower every student to be autonomous, confident, self-disciplined, a critical and creative thinker and inculcate in him/her a passion for excellence, life-long learning and responsible citizenship."**

**Q9. Does Saandeepani have School Counsellors and Learning Lab support?**

Saandeepani has partnered with Drishti is a professional organization that has been serving schools since 1994. They are a team of highly qualified and well-trained psychologists, special educators and therapists who provide psycho-educational assessments, diagnostics, therapies, school counselling and remedial education at Saandeepani. Their reports are accepted by all educational boards- CBSE, ICSE, CIE, IGCSE, IB. (drishtionline.in)

**Q10. What Co-curricular Activities are offered at Saandeepani?**

For Sports, our motto is – “Skills for life – Fitness for life”. Students are offered a varied to sports to hone their skills and improve their fitness levels. These include

Swimming

Skating

Athletics

Basketball

Volleyball

KhoKho

Kabaddi

In addition to this, we have Yoga, Chess and Martial Arts too.

For Art, our curriculum includes Dance, Music, Art and Craft and Oracy.

**Q11. Does Saandeepani have a canteen?**

Saandeepani does not have a full canteen, but does provide a simple, home-style hot lunch in case students do not bring lunch from home. This is a paid service and orders have to be placed before 9 am.

**Q12. How are we different?**

While we are not an alternative school, however we adopt best practices based on latest researched methodology in our teaching. Our teachers are exposed to various workshops including those by Azim Premji University to continuously upgrade their knowledge and skills.

Our philosophy of continuous improvement goes beyond just teaching in the classroom and covers all school activities including administration and management.

**Q13. Is Saandeepani an Inclusive School?**

Yes, Saandeepani welcomes special needs children in collaboration with Stepping Stones Center (www.steppingstonescenter.in)

Note to Vinu

1. Add home tab – clicking on it should take us to website landing page. Currently, to go landing page we have to click on the logo.
2. Add Student tab, Collaborations tab and Careers tab after FAQ tab
3. Under about us tab – the following need to be added. After Management – put Mentors, Advisory Board, School Management Committee (Details are attached)
4. For management, mentors, advisory board – use the format as on this site http://steppingstonescenter.in/about-us/management-team/
5. For Faculty – sending 4 photos for Preprimary, primary, Middle+High school and Admin
6. Along with vision and mission add an image from google
7. Core Values listed are wrong. Sending the right version.
8. On homepage, add more scrolling photos and each photo to have one core value text on it.
9. Student tab – drop down menu – student council, student activities, student recognitions
10. Under Our Programs tab – DEAR – text title should be Drop Everything And Read
11. Under sports – text box to be made portrait. Adjacent to it a photo box with scrolling sports photos.
12. Similar format for SGT as for sports
13. Leave the community connect as is
14. Student election and council tab can be transferred to the main tab as mentioned above in point number 8
15. The facilities page – sending you the updated circles – please map the page to it, sending images to open when hovering on each circle.
16. Admission tab – should have a queries subtab – opening a dialog box – for email and query – which gets sent to [info@saandeepani.in](mailto:info@saandeepani.in)
17. Collaborations Tab – should open to a screen of logos of all our partners
    1. Curriculum Partner – Xseed
    2. Knowledge Collaboration – Azim Premji University
    3. Professional Development Partner – TeacherInk
    4. Special Education Needs – Stepping Stones Center
    5. Counselling and Remediation – Drishti
    6. Math and English Online Partner – Mindspark
    7. Assessment Partner – Asset
    8. Dance Partner – ASDA

**Management**

Shri Virendra Kathuria

Trust President

Shri Kathuria is an engineer by qualification, a business entrepreneur by profession, and an educationist-philanthropist by choice. Having secured several technical degrees and reached the summit in his industrial career, Mr. Kathuria decided to give it all up for the love of mother earth. He took up various land related activities including farming and property development. He was the first big land developer in the Sarjapur area, even before the property boom of the 1990s. His passion for social service and his dream of providing high standards of education at affordable cost has led him to found the Smt. Sarala Devi Kathuria Memorial Educational Trust with the purpose of developing premier educational institutes for the residents of the Sarjapur area. He is the guiding force behind Saandeepani Academy of Excellence.

Smt Manju Kathuria

Trust Vice President

Having experienced life as a homemaker, a mother, a horticulturist and a farmer, Smt Manju Kathuria uses lessons learnt in the school of life in the administration of the trust. She manages the scholarship and charitable programs and oversees the functioning of the various activities of the trust.

Dr. Prarthana Gupta

Managing Trustee

After completing her PhD from the University of Leeds, UK in 1999, Dr. Prarthana Gupta dove into the field of education. From 1999 to 2008 she worked in various capacities of preschool teacher, high school teacher, instructor and principal in different schools across the globe (USA, China, Saudi Arabia and India). Culminating her varied experience and her passion to positively influence the society we live in, she started Cherry Blossoms Pre School in 2008 and Saandeepani Academy in 2011. She firmly believes that a school should teach us how to live and not just how to make a living.

https://www.linkedin.com/in/prarthana-gupta-34293762/

Shri Sandeep Gupta

Trust Secretary

Shri Sandeep Gupta is an engineer by profession. In his career spanning 25 years he has worked for major steel plants in India and abroad. After spending considerable time in countries like Saudi Arabia, USA, China, Mexico, and Canada. Mr. Gupta returned to the country to set up his company in 2006 that provides process automation consultancy services to steel plants. He has provided services to plants in Philippines and Iran, and major plants in India. He is a strong believer in the phrase “Knowledge is the true power” and that the education system should empower young minds to become thinkers. Slowly but surely, the country should attain the position of leaders of the world. His strong desire to contribute to society led him to be a part of the Smt Sarala Devi Kathuria Memorial Educational Trust.

https://www.linkedin.com/in/guptasa/

Dr. Sagar Kathuria

Trustee

A biophysicist by training, Dr. Sagar Kathuria served as a faculty member of the University of Massachusetts Medical School and is currently working with Sanofi Genzyme. Besides his academic pursuits, he is also interested in the history of Indian art and culture. He believes that a well-rounded education provides individuals the means to discover themselves and shape the society they live in. Our heritage of learning will provide the world with the leaders of tomorrow. He is also a sports enthusiast and athlete having participated in several international marathon races. He believes that a sound mind resides in a healthy body.

https://www.linkedin.com/in/sagar-kathuria-2430bb7/

Dr. Madhavi Kolli

Trustee

Dr. Madhavi Kolli is a structural biologist and a public health professional by training. In addition to her research, she is also interested in art, music and culture from all over the world. She strongly believes that education is not just an accumulation of information and a means to a livelihood. It is a lifelong process that needs to start at an early stage that allows individuals to develop their intellect, customs and values.

TS Eliot (The Rock): “Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?”

https://www.linkedin.com/in/madhavi-kolli-61a65032/

**Mentors**

Dr. Anil Kakodkar

Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan

Former Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission of India

https://www.linkedin.com/in/anilkakodkar/

Prof Glenn Christo Kharkhongor

Chancellor, Martin Luther Christian University

https://www.linkedin.com/in/glenn-christo-752b4413/

Professor KN Ganeshaiah

Professor and Fellow - Jawaharlal Nehru Center for Advanced Scientific Research

Dr. Chanchal Uberoi

Former Professor and Dean, IISc, Bengaluru

Dr. Balasubramanyah Gargeya

Former Professor, IISc, Bengaluru

**Advisory Board**

Dr. Sujatha Rao

PhD University of Sydney, HoD-School Organisation, Leadership and Management, Azim Premji University

https://www.linkedin.com/in/sujatha-rao-24ab1011/

Mr. Hemant Sharma

MA Ed, Azim Premji University; MBA, XLRI

Education Consultant

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/hemant-sharma-7bb370/>

Ms. Sandhya Gatti

Founder Director – Teacher Ink; Vice President – Edupaedia Consultancy Services

https://www.linkedin.com/in/sandhya-gatti-1b177617/

**School Management Committee**

Jayanti Roy – Principal, Saandeepani Academy for Excellence

Juin Bhattacharya – PGT, Saandeepani Academy for Excellence

Ritu Arora – PGT, Saandeepani Academy for Excellence

Pramod V Babberjung – Parent, Saandeepani Academy for Excellence

KS Pradeep Kumar – Parent, Saandeepani Academy for Excellence

Nima Daisy – High School Coordinator, SSRVM

Maimoona Mehtab – Teacher, Candor International School

Lathika P – Former Principal, BRS Global School and Saandeepani Academy for Excellence

Manjul Mathur – Teacher, Baldwin Girls’ High School

Susmita Shroff – Head, Teacher Ink

M. Narayanan – Former Operations Head, Wipro

Sandra Albert – Director, Indian Institute of Public Health, Shillong

**Faculty**

Only Group Photos – preprimary, primary, middle and high school, admin

**Core Values**

Pursuing **Excellence** - a zeal for continuous improvement

Nurturing **Creative and Critical thinking** – the courage to innovate and adapt

Cultivating **Integrity** - an unwavering commitment to truth and honesty

Fostering **Teamwork** - collaborating to achieve common goals

Encouraging **Responsibility** – taking responsibility for our actions

Inculcating **Cultural Sensitivity** and honouring diversity

Practicing **Self Discipline** - for building character

Developing **MINDFUL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS** – to encourage sustainable ethical consumption