

Hayden Hall Institute

Post School Program

The Post School Program is an integral part of the Education Program of Hayden Hall Institute, with a history of supporting children and young people since 1971. The program aims to provide quality educational support to children from underserved and disadvantaged communities across the intervention areas of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Siliguri and Jalpaiguri, while creating opportunities for their overall development. The program operates through two sections Institution-based and Outreach-based Post School Programs. At the Institution in Darjeeling, classes are conducted within Hayden Hall with dedicated classrooms, teaching and learning materials, equipment and a supportive learning environment. In the Outreach Program, common community spaces are identified in consultation with local communities and used as learning centres through an agreement with the community. The program supports children from LKG to Class 12, including both boys and girls, who come from different schools in the surrounding communities. Children are identified by Hayden Hall teachers and Community Development Workers through their regular interaction with children and families, with priority given to those who are most in need of additional educational support. With an approximate student-teacher ratio of 15:1, teachers are able to provide individual attention and respond to the learning needs of each child. The program also works towards reducing school dropout rates by collaborating with NGOs, government departments and other partners that provide scholarships and educational assistance, helping children remain in school and continue their education. The Post School Program currently has 44 outreach centres 8 in Darjeeling, 21 in Kalimpong, 9 in Siliguri and 6 in Kelabari, Jalpaiguri.

Beyond academic learning, the Post School Program places strong emphasis on the holistic development and well-being of every child. Recognising that children learn better when their basic needs are supported, the program provides after-school meals to help reduce hunger, promote healthy growth and ensure that children have the energy to participate actively in their learning. Children are also given opportunities to develop their social, emotional, creative and practical skills through exposure visits, workshops, capacity building sessions and interactions with resource persons from different fields. The program encourages children to discover their interests and take ownership of activities through platforms such as the Environment Club, Dance Club, Sports Teams and Event Management Teams, where they learn teamwork, leadership, communication, creativity and responsibility. These activities provide children with opportunities to step beyond their regular classroom learning, interact with others, build confidence and recognise their own strengths and abilities. Through both its Institution and Outreach initiatives, Hayden Hall strives to create a safe, caring and encouraging space where children are not only supported in their education but are also nourished, heard, valued and given the opportunity to grow into confident, capable and responsible individuals, with the skills and confidence to contribute meaningfully to their families and communities.

