

The Blue Mountains School

Ootacamund, S. India



The school is affiliated to the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, New Delhi, and prepares its 10th Class students for the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education Examination held in December each year. A pass in the above examination enables students to join the Pre-University Course in Colleges of all Indian Universities

The Blue Mountains School, Ootacamund

Prospectus

Origin and Aims

1. The Blue Mountains School, a residential, co-educational independent, English-medium (secondary) school at Ootacamund (Tamil Nadu) was established in 1961. It was brought into existence by that well-known educationist, Mr. F. G. Pearce, in association with a small group of people who had worked in the field of education for a number of years. The school, now managed by the F. G. Pearce Educational and Charitable Trust, is a non-profit institution.

The school owes its existence to the fact that the founder and his colleagues were anxious to start a school which, while based on the general pattern of a good public school, should be able to align itself, in certain important aspects, with the new progressive schools in India and abroad.

The school, therefore, wishes to base its work on the following:

- (a) small classes:
- (b) close personal relationship between teacher and child and, through it effective individual help:
- (c) an attempt to shape discipline not so much by punishment or physical violence as by maintaining an atmosphere of firmness and friendliness clarity and healthy freedom:

- (d) an environment which ministers to the major needs of adolescent growth
(This is, of course, a basic feature of boarding schools.)

What these features mean in actual practice is this:

A The school has set itself the limit of a total strength of 125 children in eight classes from the IV to the XI with an *average of 15-16 children in each class*. The age groups range from 8+ to 17+.

B With the small size of class which the school maintains—without loss of financial viability—, a much closer relationship and understanding between teacher and child is practicable than in most other schools—even in good schools. In day-to-day work, this means (a) at least one school hour and other opportunities devoted to individual help, (b) a teaching and learning process which can be more child-oriented than usual, (c) more educational and less routine work for the teacher.

C The school has no system of rewards and punishments as an aid to discipline and has found no use for violence. Since teaching-learning-living-playing groups are small, many problems which are usually classified as problems of discipline naturally yield to understanding and firmness. But the school is certainly concerned to maintain an atmosphere which relies on firmness for producing clarity, orderliness and restraint and on freedom for producing self-reliance and happiness in the child.

D The essence of any educational settlement or community is to provide an environment which will ensure good adolescent growth. This, the school has attempted to provide in (a) a physical setting which is exhilarating and healthful; (the school is located on the Western slopes of ELK HILL at Ootacamund, the well-known mountain resort in the Nilgiris, which has a bracing, equable climate during most of the year even though its height from mean sea level is 7500 ft.) (b) a physical and educational plant, more or less adequate but growing in variety and scope, with provision for the academic, creative and cultural activities and subjects which the school offers: (c) good, wholesome boarding arrangements with vegetarian food, which includes eggs, cheese and curds—and small units as houses; (d) a great deal of physical activity in the form of play, games, athletics, weekly outings, camps, excursions and p.t. and (e) group pursuits and programmes which nourish and canalize that extremely important part of an adolescent's life—the emotions.

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General information and school procedures

Parents are requested to read these regulations carefully because acceptance of and compliance with them by the parents of the pupils is a condition of admission and of continuing as member of the school community. It should be noted, however, that these regulations and procedures—particularly those covering the fees and deposits—are subject to modification and revision as and when the school decides on such revision.

1. Admission.

(a) To register a child on the school waiting list, prospective parents have to complete a registration form, sent with the prospectus or to be procured from the school, and to send it to the school with a registration fee of Rs. 20/-. It should be noted (i) that this fee is not refundable (ii) that registration is not a guarantee of admission (iii) that admission depends on a vacancy being available and on an interview with the headmaster, possibly accompanied by a short test in English, Maths, and, in some cases, Hindi.

(b) Admissions are ordinarily made only at the beginning of the year in February (generally, they are finalised in the October or November of the previous year). But under certain circumstances a few admissions may be allowed in the second term

also i.e. in August. Application forms for admission can be obtained from the school office. To those who are registered on the waiting list, this form is given or sent in Oct./Nov. immediately after the test/interview. If the test-interview can be arranged in Oct./Nov. and is satisfactory, a place in the school will be reserved for the boy: a sum of Rs. 100/- as advance fee is required to be remitted to the school for such reservation. In the event of a boy not availing himself of the reservation by joining school on the opening day of term, this sum is not refunded; if he joins, the sum is adjusted against the fees.

(c) Normally, children between the ages of 8 and 12 only are accepted for admission.

(d) It is desirable that a child should have, before he joins the school, a good working knowledge of—at least—spoken English.

(e) For admission, all parents are required to sign a parent's undertaking which is a part of the form of application for admission.

(f) A health certificate form is required to be completed and signed by a registered medical practitioner (preferably the family doctor) and given to the school matron at the time of admission.

(g) A transfer certificate (or a school leaving certificate) from the school last attended by the boy is required to be submitted at the time of admission, or within three weeks after admission.

2. Payment of fees and deposits.

(a) The annual school fee is Rs. 3000/- for one child, irrespective of age or class. This fee is not refundable under any circumstances and, of course, no account is rendered of this amount.

(b) The fee is payable either (i) in a lump sum for the whole year at the beginning of the year or at the time of admission (in which case a 3 percent rebate will be allowed) or (ii) in two instalments, the first one, amounting to Rs. 1500/- being paid in the first week of February or before or at the time of admission and the second one, also amounting to 1500/- in the first week of August or earlier.

(c) This school fee covers most of the boarding and schooling expenditure of a pupil such as tuition, residential arrangements and service, boarding (i.e. balanced vegetarian and adequate food), laboratory and library-service, games, co-curricular activities and arts and crafts, routine medical attention etc. But it does not cover the many items of personal equipment and incidental expenditure such as clothing, school books and stationery, excursions, extra games equipment, special lessons if any, including those for music, riding etc, toilet, pocket-money, travelling

money for going to and from home, public examination fees, cinema shows and others allowed by the school and the parents.

(d) For the items (indicated above) which are not covered by the school fee—and particularly for the initial supply of uniform, other kit and school books and stationery—a sum of Rs. 1000/- has to be deposited as Personal Equipment and General Deposit at the time of admission. Thereafter parents are required to maintain a minimum standing balance of Rs. 500/- in this deposit account until the pupil leaves the school. To enable parents to do this, an account of the original Personal Equipment and General Deposit of Rs. 1000/- will be sent to them as and when reimbursement becomes necessary and, in any case, at least once a year.

(Thus, apart from the cost of the initial equipment, the average pupil needs about Rs. 500/- per year for the kind of personal expenditure mentioned in this paragraph.)

(e) When a child is admitted, a caution money deposit of Rs. 400/- is required to be made in addition to the Personal Equipment and General Deposit. This sum is refunded after deducting outstanding school dues or penalties at the time of the pupil's leaving the school.

(f) Payment may be made in cash but preferably by crossed cheque or draft on the State Bank of India, Ootacamund, made out to the Blue Mountains School. It will be appreciated if separate cheques are made out for the fees, the personal expenses deposit and the caution money deposit.

3. Withdrawal and removal.

(a) If a child is to be withdrawn from the commencement of a new term, notice of withdrawal must be given in writing **a week before the commencement of the vacation immediately preceding the term for which the child is to be withdrawn.**

(b) If a child is to be withdrawn during term time or at any time after admission, notice of withdrawal must be given in writing **three months before the actual date of withdrawal.**

(c) If due notice of withdrawal in accordance with paragraphs 4 (a) & (b) above is not or cannot be given, a compensatory amount of Rs. 300/- will be charged or recovered from the Caution Money Deposit. If the term's fees have been paid, they cannot be refunded except for a refund of Rs. 75/- per month for unconsumed food for the remaining **full** months of the term.

(d) The headmaster has the right to ask for the withdrawal of a pupil from the school at any time during the year without giving any reason.

(e) In specific cases, if, in the opinion of the headmaster, a pupil is not benefiting by the education given in the school, or is found to have an insurmountable difficulty in adjusting to the school, the headmaster may ask for the pupil's withdrawal.

(f) In serious cases of misbehaviour or breach of school rules, the headmaster may have to suspend or expel a pupil **at any time without warning and at short notice.**

(g) In cases of withdrawal or removal of a pupil from the school under the circumstances indicated in paragraphs 4(d), (e) and (f) above, the school fees, except for a proportion of the mess charges, will not be refundable.

4. Excursions.

Money required for local educational or field trips, week-end outings etc. is covered by the school fee. But special and mid-term excursions which are much more elaborate and might include camping out over a period or expeditions to distant places are a charge on the Personal Equipment and General Deposit account.

5. Leave.

Although the granting of leave to pupils is a matter for the headmaster's absolute discretion, as a rule, leave to be away from school during term time will not be granted except, of course, on the days put down as week-end leave in the calendar. (One of the ways in which parents can most usefully co-operate with the school is by refraining from asking for leave for a child during term time—especially for such purposes as weddings, anniversaries, 'religious' ceremonies etc.)

6. Clothing and other equipment.

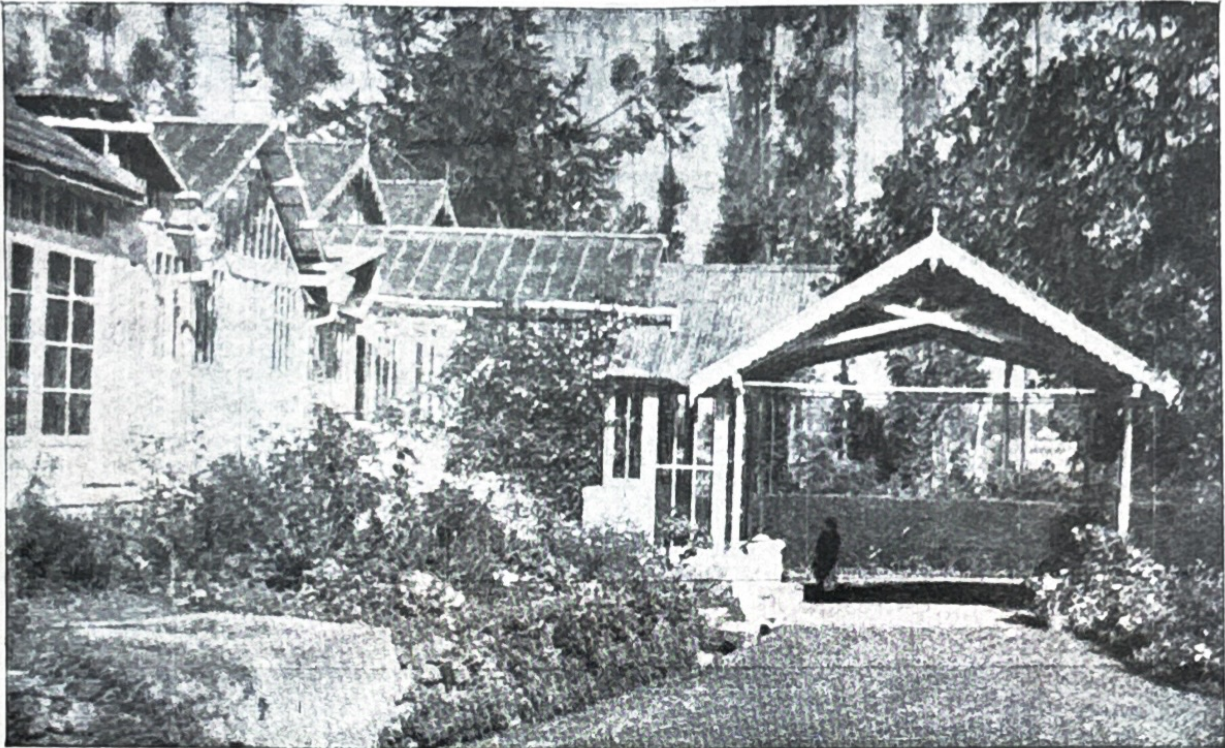
A list attached to this pamphlet gives the details of the clothing and other kit required by a pupil. Except for the school uniform (details of which are given in the 2nd paragraph of the list) all other clothing and kit should be sent with the pupil when he is first admitted or returns after a vacation to school.

Parents are particularly requested to see that the warm clothing and blankets etc. mentioned in the list are sent with the child.

Senior children are expected (a) to be careful in regard to personal expenditure and (b) to look after their own belongings.

7. Money and valuables with the children.

(a) Children when coming to school are not expected to bring with them jewellery or valuable items such as cash sums, expensive watches or cameras or fountain pens



School Main Porch



Basket-ball court in the school playfield



A class



A
laboratory



An
Art class

etc. In any case, the school is not responsible for the loss of or damage to such items if brought to school in contravention of this regulation. Whatever cash is left with the pupils after their journey from home to school **must** be deposited with matron.

b) All money, whether by money order, postal order, draft or cheque, and for whatever purpose should be sent to the Headmaster. Any amount sent direct to a pupil is liable to be returned undelivered or, in special circumstances, confiscated and added to the pupil's deposit account.

(c) Every pupil is paid, roughly every month, a certain amount as pocket money (out of the Personal Equipment and General Deposit). This is the only cash amount boys are expected to handle.

(d) Parents or visitors are requested not to give any cash to the children when they visit them.

8. Health.

All matters relating to a child's health are looked after by a matron (who is also a qualified nurse). There is a sick bay and dispensary next door to the Matron's rooms. Careful monthly records of weights and heights are maintained. A consultant is always available in all cases which need consultation and treatment. Parents will be informed about a pupil's illness only if he/she is required to be in the sick room for more than three days. During any illness extending for a longer time, regular reports about the pupil's progress will be sent to the parents. Routine medical treatment and attention for minor ailments are given free. But consultations, special investigations special medicines or treatment, tonics, etc, have to be paid for. Parents, visitors and children coming from an infected area must either refrain from visiting or must previously inform the headmaster of the fact that they would be visiting from an infected area.

9. Letters.

All children (unless they are in the sick room and cannot write) are required to write home once a week, usually on Friday.

10. Travelling to and from school.

(a) Children must return to school after the holidays or after leave—punctually by the time and on the date announced (though **not**, after the long holidays, earlier than a day previous to that date). Parents are requested to treat punctual return to school as very important.

(b) At present the school has no arrangement for escorting children from school beyond Madras. A teacher escorts a party to Madras at the beginning of each

- (b) The school makes arrangement for escorting children from school for the holidays to Madras, Bombay and Calcutta.
- (c) For returning to school after the holidays, the school arranges to escort children from Bombay, Calcutta and Madras to Ooty.

11. Birthdays.

The school has an arrangement by which a common birthday party (the whole school participating) is organised every month for all the boys whose birthdays fall in that month. For this an extra charge of Rs. 10/- is made.

12. Visits.

For the time being, the school has no accommodation for guests but, of course, there are good hotels and tourist homes not far from the school. Frequent visits by parents, relations or friends of the children are not advisable because, in too many cases, they do have the effect of distracting and upsetting the younger children. The school does wish the parents to keep in touch with it but naturally it does not wish that this should come about at the expense of the child's life at the school! Visits by parents and relations should, therefore, be confined to those week-ends which are put down in the school calendar as 'week-end leave.' These days are arranged, roughly, once a month.

But, in any case, visits to the school should not be made without previous arrangement with the principal.

Parents on a visit to the school are requested **not** to go to the dormitories and classes or the living and dining rooms directly: but to wait in the office whilst the boy is sent for. Visitors not known to the staff and wishing to see a child will have to produce a letter from the parent or legal guardian of the child, allowing them to meet him/her.

Parents are also requested not to call children on the trunk telephone but, in case of urgent need, to speak to a member of the staff.

13. The Prospectus.

The cost of the prospectus, including the general information and school procedures part and the forms and the cost of inland postage, is Rs. 5.50. This should be paid in advance when the prospectus is asked for or, if that is not possible, as soon as the prospectus is received if it is not to be sent by V.P.P.

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS SCHOOL

List of Clothing and Other Articles to be supplied from Home

- 1 waterproof coat (with cap or hood)
- 3 pyjama suits
- 4 face towels
- 1 dressing gown
- 6 handkerchiefs (white)
- 1 pair white canvas shoes (Bata Bullet)
- 2 p.t. blue shorts (with elastic)
- 4 vests/petticoats
- 6 drawers/panties
- 1 metal trunk or large leather suitcase with lock and duplicate keys and inscribed with name of student
- 1 air travel bag or ruck-sack
- 2 blankets
- 1 razai
- 1 pillow
- 4 plain cotton pillow-cases
- 3 pairs of plain white cotton bedsheets
- 1 cotton bedspread (coloured)
- 1 tooth brush
- tooth paste
- hair brush and comb
- 1 soap box with soap
- 1 plastic mug
- 1 nail cutter or a pair of scissors
- 1 bag for shoes (cloth)
- 4 coat hangers
- 1 padlock with duplicate keys (for school desk)
- 1 shoe polishing kit (with blanco for white canvas)
- 12 cotton shirts (white)
- 6 denim blue trousers
- 2 denim blue battle-jackets (airforce type)
- 6 pairs grey socks
- 1 pair black shoes
- 1 pair sandals
- 1 black polo-neck pullover
- 1 extra pullover

Items not brought by the pupil will be supplied by the school and debited to account.

Children can bring only a few other dresses in addition to the above.

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS SCHOOL, OOTACAMUND.

I. List of clothing and other articles to be supplied from home for boys and girls

- 1 Waterproof coat (with cap or hood)
- 3 Pyjama suits
- 3 Bath towels
- 4 Face towels
- 1 Dressing gown
- 18 Handkerchiefs (white)
- 1 Pair of brown canvas shoes
- 1 Pair white canvas shoes
- 2 P. T. (blue) shorts (with elastic)
- 4 Vests
- 6 Drawers
- 1 Metal trunk or large leather suitcase with lock and duplicate keys & inscribed with name of student.
- 1 Waterproof hold-all or bedding bag inscribed clearly with name of student.
- 1 air-travel bag or ruck-sack
- 2 Blankets.
- 1 Razai
- 1 Pillow
- 4 Plain cotton pillow-cases
- 3 Pairs of plain white cotton bedsheets
- 1 Cotton bedspread (coloured)
- 1 Tooth brush
- Tooth paste
- Hair brush & comb
- 1 soap box with soap
- 1 Plastic mug
- 1 Nail cutter or pair of scissors
- Bag for shoes (cloth)
- 4 Coat-hangers
- 1 Electric torch (optional)
- 1 Padlock with duplicate keys (for school desk)
- 1 shoe polishing kit (with blanco for white canvas)
- 7 White cotton shirts (full-sleeve)
- 7 White cotton shirts (half-sleeve)
- 2 Pairs of white trousers.

II. List of articles which will be supplied by the school to ensure uniformity.*For Boys*

- 5 Shorts (dark grey cotton)
- 5 Pairs of grey trousers
- 1 Blazer (black) with embroidered crest
- 6 Pairs of grey socks (nylon or wool)
- 1 Grey pull-over (sleeveless V neck)
- 1 Black jersey (full sleeves V neck)
- 1 Extra jersey
- 1 School tie
- 4 T-Shirts for games
- 1 School bedspread.
- 1 Pair of black leather laced shoes
- 1 Pair of chappals

For Girls

- 4 Skirts grey
- 4 Pairs of shorts-grey
- 2 Pairs of shorts-white
- 4 Pairs of gray-socks
- 2- Pairs of white socks

AMOUNT PAYABLE ON ADMISSION

1. Admission Fee (Not refundable)	Rs. 500-00
2. Caution Deposit (Refunded at the time the student leaves the school)	Rs. 400-00
3. Term Fees) (Tuition, Boarding, etc)	Rs.1500-00
4. Deposit for Personal & General Expenses during the First Term (Account rendered at the end of the term and credit/debit transferred to the next term)	Rs.1000-00
	Rs.3400-00
