



# Prithipura Communities

**Prithipura Communities** -  
Prithipura Infants Home,  
Asokapura & Anandapura Farms,  
Cotagala School & Galle Centre  
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## Further information about Prithipura Communities and Cotagala School

Registered No's GM/5/82,  
MSS/NSPD/R/23, L-52811  
& WP/SSD/G/DH/2010/01  
App Reg Charity 7/1638

**Prithipura Communities** was founded in 1964 by the late Dr Bryan de Kretser. Initially Bryan and a helper cared for two children with severe disabilities at what is now known as Prithipura Infants Home. Due to poverty and difficult family circumstances, babies and children with disabilities were frequently abandoned by their families. Bryan took on the mission to support these children; some of the most vulnerable in Sri Lanka who required intensive support.

Over fifty years later, Prithipura Communities now operates from four locations and supports two hundred and forty children and adults with disabilities with specialist care, education, vocational training and work opportunities.

**Cotagala School** is one of the branches of Prithipura Communities and provides education and vocational training to 80 children and young people with disabilities. It is located in the hills in the centre of Sri Lanka, near Mawanella. Asokapura Farm, another branch of Prithipura Communities, is 2km away from Cotagala School and daily activities are often linked, with some of those living at Asokapura also accessing vocational training at Cotagala School.

**Cotagala School and Asokapura Farm** are working farms and produce rubber as well as 40 types of fruits and vegetables that are sold for profit or used by those living at all 4 of the locations.



Prithipura Infants Home, Beach Road, Hendala, Wattala, 11300, Sri Lanka

President - Mr Rupasinghe Arachchige Pradeep Rohana, Director - Mrs Thillaka de Kretser  
Treasurer - Mr Indrakumar Kishore Kumar  
Secretary - Mr Pieter Sampath de Kretser, Assistant Secretary - Ms Pushpa (Juliet) Ramanayake



**Cotagala School** is registered as a special school with the Education Department and follows the Special Education curriculum. It operates on a 3 terms per year basis but those who have no families stay with us throughout the year. We encourage regular contact with families with those who have contact and those who do have families spend the holiday times with their family if they are able.

Babies and children who grow up at the Infants Home who have less severe disabilities such as Down's Syndrome, typically move to Cotagala School when they are around 5/6 years old. However, this transition varies as it is dependent on each child's development and whether they are ready for school and more able to be a bit more independent. Children also attend Cotagala School when their families are referred to us via the Education department as they are unable to find a school local to where they live.

The school curriculum is vibrant and inclusive and offers a range of subjects so that every child can excel in something. As well as traditional school subjects, handicrafts, art, craft and dancing are also part of the school curriculum. One of the school's key aims is to develop independence in the children that attend so that they can live with minimal support when they are adults. Self-care skills are taught at an early age as well as practical activities such as cooking, housekeeping and farming. The children play an active role in the running of the school and where they live and have responsibilities such as helping in the kitchen or gardening.



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