ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Makeni, Sierra Leone



Our History -- Our Mission

Education Will Help Us Take Our Rightful Place In Society

St. Joseph's School for the Deaf, was established in 1979 by the St. Joseph of Cluny Sisters. It began with just eight students and two teachers. In 1986, the school started accepting boarders, initially accommodating 35 students (15 girls and 20 boys). Although the school was closed during the latter part of the civil war, it reopened in 2001. Today, it serves 185 children, including 95 boarders, aged 4 to 21 years. The school welcomes children from all over Sierra Leone, regardless of their religion or ability to pay.

St. Joseph's School is a vital resource for the deaf and hard of hearing community in Sierra Leone, particularly for children. Many of these children face discrimination and stigma due to their disability, and opportunities for education are limited.

Our mission is to provide knowledge and skills to deaf children and children with hearing loss, in partnership with their parents and in collaboration with their communities. Early intervention in identifying and diagnosing hearing loss with young children is our priority to ensure that the children have the maximum opportunity to learn how to communicate effectively.

VISION

WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS THE RIGHT OF ALL CHILDREN TO HAVE ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION THAT IS APPROPRIATE TO THEIR NEEDS TO ENABLE THEM TO TAKE THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN SOCIETY.

Education & Vocational Training

St. Joseph's School provides education to children at the pre-primary and primary level. The school follows the National Curriculum of Sierra Leone.

All subjects are taught, such as language, arts, mathematics, social studies and music. Special attention is given to reading and writing skills.

Vocational training is offered to enable the students to develop practical skills that will help them live independent lives.

Training focuses on carpentry, agriculture and gardening, hairdressing, tailoring and information technology.

For those students wanting to go to University, the school prepares them for national exams, enabling them to pursue their higher education.

School Objectives

- Raise awareness that all children have the right to quality education
- Encourage students to become responsible citizens
- Involve parents, family, caretakers, and the community in the children's education
- Promote the integration of the school children into society
- Create sustainability projects to support the school and provide job opportunities for the students



Sustainable Farm Project



Efforts are underway to utilize 63 acres of farmland owned by the Sisters to expand an agricultural sustainability project that will provide food for the school and produce enough to sell at local markets.

Currently, palm trees have been planted, and a small harvest has been used for school needs.