

**Description of the institution's performance in one area distinctive to its vision, priority, and thrust.**

Scottish Church College is one of the oldest educational institutions in the city of Kolkata, established in 1830. At the same time, it is also one of the most modern and technically updated. This integration between tradition and modernity is the distinctive feature that sets the college apart from other institutions. In the past, the college was the seedbed for the Bengal Renaissance that was sweeping through the 19th century. Even today it is valued as an important center for dissemination in this era of advancing technologies and knowledge.

The college was founded by the first overseas missionary of the Church of Scotland, Rev. Alexander Duff, with the generous help of an eminent educationist and social reformer of nineteenth-century India, Raja Rammohan Roy. The vision, priority and thrust of this missionary institution as defined by the founders were to impart liberal education based on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ and to produce intellectually sound and socially concerned men and women. The college has steadfastly remained true to this mission for the past 186 years.

Throughout its history, it has produced students who have excelled not just in academics but in allwalks of life. It was in the portals of this College that Swami Vivekananda was told about the great seer Ramakrishna Paramhansa. Contrary to popular expectation and despite its connection with Britain the college has nurtured and gifted the nation with several stalwart leaders and freedom fighters like Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Bhaktivedanta Srila Prabhupada- the founder of ISKCON, Nirmal Chandra Chatterjee, Bisheshwar Prasad Koirala, Shaukat Ali Khan, Yangmaso Shaiza, Ambica Charan Majumder, Saroj Dutta and many others. It inspired young Indians to dream of an independent nation it also produced administrators, educationists, philosophers as well as new thinkers.

The college has been a trailblazer in the field of women's education too. In 1876 Chandramukhi Bose passed the F.A examination from this college. The College became the pioneer in introducing regular coeducation courses in Bengal in 1924. The college also housed a vocational course for women since the early twentieth century in the building where the teacher-training course for women students is held today. In the institution women are well represented in the student body, in the faculty, and in the administration and governance of the college. There is a woman and gender development cell, and the different programs and seminars organized by the college reflect the contemporariness of the vision of the college. In 2018 there was a full-day seminar on the problems of the Third Gender organized by the Department of Political Science which showshow the college is geared to be progressive and not be bound by moribund social mores.

The college has expanded both horizontally and vertically over the years. In the new Millennium, the college ushered in a new phase by introducing undergraduate courses in new-age subjects like Computer Science and Microbiology. To keep up with the changing times we have introduced BBA and Commerce courses.

Till today the college is maintaining the balance between tradition and modernity. A typical day in the college begins with the Morning Prayer. The college choir joined by the faculty and students sings the college hymn to inaugurate every college program. But then the regular activities of the college run with the aid of modern facilities: ICT-enabled classrooms, laboratories with updated equipment, an automated library, a digital noticeboard, modern gymnasium. Scottish Church is one of the first colleges in the city to introduce online admission. The continuing academic excellence is represented by the Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences. The College alumni include many celebrities in the fields of science, technology, academia, corporate, sports, culture, and almost all walks of life. Their early talents are nurtured in the classrooms, laboratories, playgrounds, and hobby clubs. The tradition of social commitment among the staff and students is maintained in the running of the NSS program for slum children in the college playground. The college is moving ahead with its mission and vision of producing intellectually sound, morally upright, and socially responsible students who will come to the service of society. With this mission and vision, the college is equipping itself to face the challenges of higher education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century keeping its roots firm. The Kolkata Municipal Corporation declares the college as a grade 'A' Heritage institution.