

# Druk Padma Karpo Institute – Druk White Lotus School

Shey, Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, India  
Tel: +91 1982 267 255 [www.dwls.org](http://www.dwls.org)

Our mission is to enable the students to have the confidence and competence to succeed in the modern world, together with a sound grounding in Ladakhi language, culture and traditions.

The essence will be to create an institution that will nurture life-long learning and, over time, will develop leaders who will contribute to Ladakh's economic, social and cultural well-being.



**Question:** How do these people resolve the conflict when they see a world through the eyes of media and tourists, which may be very different from their own values, culture and traditions?

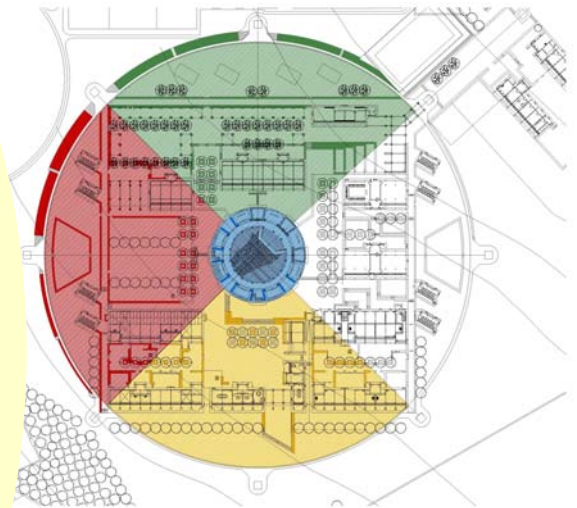
**Answer by His Holiness Gyalwang Drukpa:** I am hoping the school (Druk White Lotus School) will start teaching people to balance the conflict and confusion you are talking about. The root cause is lack of education. Many of them have a very nice modern education, but certain type of modern education doesn't help. It gives you a very unbalanced way of looking at the world. You need the right type of modern education without losing your own traditional education. You have to teach them the value of the lineage. You can give them very good education in places like Bombay or Delhi if you have the money, but when they come back they are totally lost. They can speak very good English or any other language, know computers, dress in jeans or whatever the modern way of dressing is. But they are lost in their mind, they don't know what to do now."

*Interview by Ajay Jain of Kunzum on May 23, 2009*

The changing global context will require education to develop young people as critical thinkers, minds that are able to question and find answers independently. They need to be equipped to do highly specialised and multi-skilled jobs, while at the same time being flexible to follow multiple careers in one lifetime. This will require a decisive shift in the way education is provided.

"I feel strongly that nowadays education must contain a very strong global aspect to make it real, relevant and alive. If this global dimension is fully integrated and embedded into the learning process, then education becomes 'learning for life'."

*Edwin Gruber, Director of Activities at St Christopher School, Letchworth (UK partner school)*



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**9. Solar panels** pump snow-melt water from 30m below ground. A **reservoir** is located at the top of the site.

9

**10. Architectural students** from the US are helping to create the **'Living Traditions'** heritage project. This will include erection of a 'rebo' (nomadic tent), reconstruction of an old Ladakhi house, a display of cultural artefacts, and a Cultural Archive.

10

**11. Energy Centre:** solar water pump; inverters & batteries.

11

**12. Secondary School** under construction: must be completed by October 2011.

12

**13. Cricket ground plus exercise trail** being created by students from Alton College, UK.

13

The school is laid out in the form of a 9-square MANDALA (a traditional form with spiritual significance).

**8. Naropa Palace** (Photang) was built in 2003-4 for His Holiness Gyalwang Drukpa to perform the Ornaments of Naropa ceremony. 20-30 nuns live here. Go up the steps to enter the shrine room (please leave your shoes outside). You are welcome to join morning and evening ritual practices.

8

**7. Residences** 1, 2 & 3 are occupied; Residence 4 must be built as soon as possible to meet demands. More than 150 students from remote areas live on the campus.

7

**6. Dining Hall, Kitchen, Recycling.**

6

**5. Basketball court & adventure playground** (being created by students from Perse School, Cambridge, UK).

5

**4. Science & Arts Courtyard** opened in November 2008. Please walk through the Courtyard and turn LEFT.

4

**3. Please visit the displays in the Central Courtyard.** The **Padma Karpo Library** will be constructed here in 2010-11 provided US\$140,000 can be raised.

3

**2. Junior School Courtyard** opened in 2005.

2

## INFORMATION CENTRE

Look out for the **photovoltaic panels** along the façade, which convert sunlight into electricity. The school is virtually self-sufficient in electrical energy, although more panels will be needed as the school expands.

**1. Nursery & Infant Courtyard:** opened in 2001; won three **World Architecture Awards** in 2002.

**Main Entrance**

**Please proceed on foot from the Car Park to the Information Centre.**

Please note that it is traditional to move **CLOCKWISE** around and within sacred buildings.

Naropa Gateway

Car park