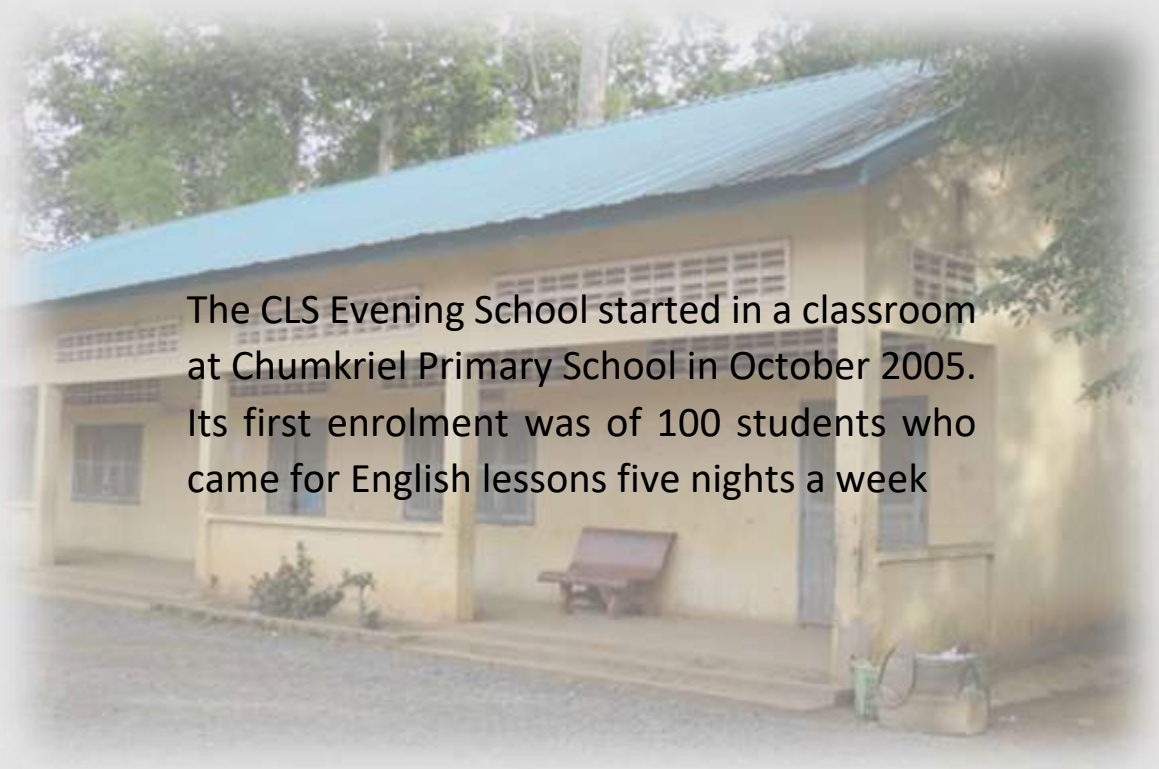


EVENING SCHOOL



The CLS Evening School started in a classroom at Chumkriel Primary School in October 2005. Its first enrolment was of 100 students who came for English lessons five nights a week



Since then it has grown to almost 600 students taking lessons at two school campuses – Chumkriel and Ang Prey. Nine teachers at Chumkriel and two at Ang Prey take classes from 5pm to 6pm and from 6pm to 7pm Monday to Friday.

Children who can afford it pay 300 riel (US8 cents) per lesson. Students from the poorest families – around 25% of the total – receive lessons for free.





It's a measure of their eagerness to learn English that most turn up 15 to 30 minutes before lessons begin. And while they arrive in daylight, those attending the later classes journey home in the dark.

They travel as far as 4km from their homes, on foot or bicycle, over rutted gravel tracks. In the wet season these tracks turn to perilous slush.



Testing of over 300 students in 2014, 2015 and 2016 shows steady improvement in comprehension and confidence. Key outcomes include:

- A decline in non-readers from 17% in 2014 to zero in 2015.
- A decline in those with a reading age of 5 to 6 from 55% in 2014 to 5% in 2016.
- 3% of students achieving the top rank reading level of 11½ to 12 by 2016.
- An increase in those recognising 200 sight words from 5% in 2014 to 49% in 2015.
- 3% recognised 300 sight words by 2016



There is renewed emphasis on training Evening School teachers in better classroom technique, abandoning the traditional Khmer approach of rote learning for a more active and engaged approach. This should see students progress more rapidly to levels of competence in English that significantly improve their job prospects by the time they complete secondary school