



COMMUNICATION AND GIFT GUIDELINES FOR SPONSOR A CHILD

INFORMATION

You will receive letters from a KiSS sponsored child twice a year, normally in June and December. Sometimes, due to circumstances in Uganda these dates may vary, but you will be informed and a letter will be forthcoming – we promise! Whilst we endeavour to provide the hard copy letters/pictures due to the unreliability of the Ugandan postal system these will often be sent via email.

You will be able to write to your KiSS sponsored child twice a year in April and September, we will send you reminders so that you get the letters submitted on time. Unfortunately, if you miss a deadline it may not be possible to send your letters to Uganda, although we will endeavour to do so. All letters will be reviewed for compliance with these guidelines before sending to the KiSS community in Uganda for distribution. All your letters/pictures will be sent to Uganda via email.

We ask that you comply with these guidelines and reach out to us if anything is unclear. Unfortunately non-compliance with these guidelines may mean that we are unable to send a letter or in serious cases will result in terminating your sponsorship entirely (with no entitlement to a refund).

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Please keep your letters simple as this makes it easier for the children to understand, English may not be their first language.

Write about things that children love and that you are also interested in, this will help develop a connection. You're welcome to ask about what their favourite school subject or favourite sport, for example.

Your letters should include little pieces of news about you or your family and words of encouragement. KiSS children love getting pictures drawn by children in the UK, so please include your whole family. You are very welcome to send appropriate photographs too (see below)!

We ask that you do not write about religion, politics or culturally sensitive topics. We hope that these letters bring the children (and you) moments of joy and we don't want to cause any upset or misunderstanding.

Please do not focus on material items or big holidays, KiSS children live in extreme poverty and these types of letters may lead to upset feelings or jealousy.

We will not send any letters or materials that we feel are inappropriate in our absolute discretion, or do not comply with these guidelines. We will attempt to contact you to inform you if this occurs.

CAN I WRITE TO KISS CHILD DIRECTLY OR PROVIDE MY EMAIL ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER IN MY LETTER?

We ask that you do not write to any KiSS sponsored child directly, provide your email address or phone number.

KiSS maintain strict child safekeeping policies and part of this is to ensure the children are protected and their privacy is respected.

Further, it helps us protect your privacy and the integrity of the project. Some sponsors in other organisations who have shared their personal contact information have received solicitations for money from people claiming to be friends or family members of their sponsored child. There have also been situations where children have been placed at risk in their communities due to their direct contact with a sponsor from the developing world. We want to ensure that these situations never arise.

CAN I CONNECT WITH KISS CHILDREN THROUGH FACEBOOK, TWITTER, EMAIL, SKYPE, ETC.?

Although it is unlikely that KiSS children will be on social media, you are not permitted to seek out KiSS children on social media or accept friend/follow requests.

Our greatest concern and primary priority with Sponsor a Child is protecting the children and their privacy. We cannot do this if we are not involved in the correspondence.

If you receive a social media request from any KiSS children please do not respond and please let us know. Any non-compliance with this guideline will result in immediate action from our KiSS Uganda team to remove any social media connection and the Sponsor a Child relationship will be terminated (with no entitlement to refund).

CAN I SEND PHOTOGRAPHS?

We would love you to! We recommend you send a picture of yourself and/or your family in the first letter and lots of pictures after that. You can send landscape photos, artistic pictures, pictures of your pets, the town you live in, your family and friends, etc.

Please avoid sending pictures that may accentuate the economic differences between you and your child (e.g., homes, cars, etc.). Be aware of what is in the photo's background, as well.

If you happen to send a photo that we consider inappropriate, the photo will not be sent. We will attempt to contact you to inform you if this occurs.

CAN I SEND GIFTS OR MONEY?

Please do not send money or goods. This is for several reasons:

- Local KiSS teams try very hard to ensure that children's needs are met ensuring that the most vulnerable children receive the most support.
- Sending money/gifts might cause jealousy and unhappiness because not all children within our KiSS community are sponsored.
- The postal service in Uganda is very unreliable and we cannot guarantee that a parcel will arrive.

- Additional costs including customs duties may be payable and will be borne by KiSS if not paid on sending – this is not something we can absorb into our finite budget.
- The local KiSS teams purchase items through your donations for the community locally, this is not only better value for money, but also contributes to the local economy.
- If KiCA or trustee trips have suitcase space they will often request donations from the UK community based on what the local KiSS teams have requested (for example, baby clothes). These gifts are delivered to the local KiSS teams and distributed to the community in this way.

Alternatively if you would like to make a one-off donation we suggest:

- £10 will fund a home visit by our KiSS staff to assess a child and provide support for their family.
- £15 will buy one mattress so a child can have a good night sleep before school.
- £20 will buy a book bundle.
- £80 will purchase one sewing machine to assist with vocational training.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to us.



THANK YOU