



SPONSOR A CHILD

FAQS

WHAT IS CHILD SPONSORSHIP AND WHAT DOES MY DONATION COVER?

Child sponsorship is your chance to change the life of a KiSS child in Uganda by sponsoring their education.

Your donation will be used by the KiSS communities to support a child through education. This means that your donation could cover one or more of the following: school fees, uniform costs, school books and equipment including stationary, school meals, community outreach including health programmes and legal rights programmes. All of these costs and activities are vital to give a KiSS sponsored child the very best chance of success through education.

WHY SHOULD I SPONSOR A CHILD THROUGH KISS?

KiSS are a small charity working directly with the Ugandan community. The decisions regarding where money is spent is made by Ugandans for Ugandans in line with our mission:

<https://www.kiddiessupportscheme.org/about-us/mission> and all appropriate governance controls. Our incredible KiSS team in Kasambya and Hoima are best placed to identify what the needs of the community are, who the children most in need are and how best to serve the community.

As we are such a small charity, your donations make a huge impact on the KiSS children and community as a whole and contribute to life changing opportunities bettering the lives of KiSS children and their families.

We cannot emphasise how important your donations are. The local KiSS teams are desperate for us to support more children, we have over 300 on the waiting list. We simply cannot support these children without your help.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

Once you have signed up and KiSS have received the first contribution, you will receive a welcome email from us which includes:

- A recent photograph from KiSS sponsored child.
- A certificate of sponsorship.
- A drawing or letter from KiSS sponsored child.
- Communication and gift guidelines and other important information.

You will be provided with bi-yearly updates about your KiSS sponsored child (in June and December) this will include a recent photograph and a drawing or letter. If possible, we will provide more frequent updates. Please note that while we endeavour to provide you with hard copy letters/drawings, these may be scanned and provided via email due to the unreliability of the Ugandan postal service.

WILL I ALWAYS BE SPONSORING THE SAME CHILD?

We work in real communities, with real families, often in very difficult situations. There are many reasons why a child may pause or stop their education at a certain level. If this arises, we will work with the KiSS staff to identify a different child for KiSS sponsorship and we will send you pictures and updates as before!

We understand that you may wish to know the details around a change in sponsorship of a child, however we request you respect sensitivities of these situations and the privacy of the child involved. Please be assured that any child who does not continue with formal education will still be supported by the KiSS community.

HOW LONG WILL MY SPONSORSHIP LAST?

Child sponsorship is a voluntary, ongoing contribution. You decide how long you're able to help. It would be amazing if you could sponsor a child throughout their entire education up to Senior 4.

We politely request you sponsor for at least one full year so that a child will benefit from a full school years worth of fees, however we understand that circumstances change and this is not always possible.

WHAT IS THE EDUCATION SYSTEM LIKE IN UGANDA?

The Ugandan education system is similar to that in the UK, however school in Uganda is not free. Children are in primary education for seven years (Primary 1 – Primary 7) and then continue through to secondary school (Senior 1 – Senior 4). Classes in Uganda are not based on age, because it is common for children to drop-out and re-enter school. The Covid-19 pandemic had a huge impact on this, as schools closed for 2 years, and children rejoined the grade they were in prior to the pandemic.

After Senior 4, children who receive the highest grades may continue on to do their A-Levels, but other children may be better suited to undertaking vocational work or have jobs ready to take them on after Senior 4. Our local KiSS teams work with the children to determine what path to take after Senior 4 in order for the KiSS child to make the most of future opportunities.

CAN I WRITE TO MY SPONSORED CHILD?

Yes! We will request letters from you to be sent in April and September. However, please follow the following communication guidelines (which may be updated from time to time):

- Write about things children love!
- Be inquisitive! Ask what their favourite school subject or sport is etc.
- Get your whole family involved – KiSS children love getting pictures drawn by children in the UK.
- Write simply and clearly – English may not be their first language.
- Send photographs or drawings!
- Try not to focus on material items.
- Avoid writing letters about religion, politics or culturally sensitive topics.
- Do not send holiday pictures with people in beachwear or other culturally inappropriate photography.
- Do not provide your personal details including phone number or home address.

All letters will be reviewed before sending to the KiSS community in Uganda for distribution. Whilst we endeavour to provide the hard copy letters/pictures often it is quicker and easier for these to be sent via email.

CAN I SEND GIFTS OR MONEY TO MY SPONSORED CHILD?

We do not encourage special gifts, money or goods to be sent to individual children 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.
- £80 will purchase one sewing machine to assist with vocational training.

CAN I SET UP A SPONSORSHIP AS PART OF MY ORGANISATION?

Yes! Sponsorship is a fantastic way to engage employees and build goodwill for your company while improving the lives and futures of children. For corporate sponsorship please send us an email to discuss what works best for KiSS and for your company.

CAN I MEET MY SPONSORED CHILD?

Yes! KiSS run trips to Uganda through KiCA and we would love for you to join a trip to meet your sponsored child. If you are planning your own trip, please reach out and we can put you in touch with our local KiSS teams to arrange a visit - they will welcome you with open arms. Please note, that when you meet your KiSS sponsored child a member of the local KiSS team must be present for safeguarding reasons.

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



THANK YOU