



*Education is the most powerful weapon
which you can use to change the world*

Nelson Mandela



Your Sponsorship Handbook

Find out how your sponsorship works and how you can make a real difference to not only the life of one student, but to the lives of a whole family.

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Welcome to our amazing community of supporters!

We at NAEF look forward to helping you to build a relationship with St. George's School and with the child you choose to sponsor.

When St. George's School admits a child into Kindergarten we know the children have a 13 year formal schooling path ahead of them – it's a path we wholeheartedly believe changes lives. Hopefully you will continue your support for a student's entire journey through formal schooling at St. George's School, then into secondary school and beyond. Our aim is to get as many of our boys and girls into university as possible.

This handbook is intended to help you understand their journey and guide your involvement in the stages of your child's formal education to the age of 18.

I thank you, our students thank you, and their families thank you; together we are fighting poverty through education.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann-Marie Rania". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ann-Marie Rania

Executive Director

Northwood African Education Foundation



About us

St George's School, Gondar, Ethiopia was established in 2011 to educate the most vulnerable children, often orphans and all from backgrounds of extreme poverty. In 2014 its doors opened to the first 50 children. Eight years later and the school is running at capacity with 500 children and the first 50 children have now finished grade 8 and have moved on to secondary school.

Our vision

To inspire real and long-term social change across Ethiopia by using the power of education to transform lives.

Our mission

To change the social structure in Gondar by developing some of Ethiopia's most employable young adults, holding a well-rounded education and values of respect, responsibility, honesty and kindness. To provide an educated community of moral and intellectual potential leaders to fight poverty in Ethiopia.

What we do

- Provide high quality education to underprivileged children, including orphans, by building a school, focussing on pre-primary and elementary education in the first instance.
- Train young people to be self-disciplined, confident and to become responsible citizens with a sense of duty and responsibility to the community.
- Help children to increase their future income-generation possibilities, thus bringing prosperity for their families and the local community.
- Make the school a learning centre for the local community with learning opportunities and help available for community members.

We have created an educational and communal centre at St. George's School, with the potential to impact the immediate community of 50,000 people.

Who we help

St. George's School recruits 50 new students a year. Our aim is to select orphans and the most vulnerable children in the Gondar region. All services are provided free of charge to its students.

How we help

With support from our family of sponsors and donors, St. George's School provides over 500 of the regions most vulnerable children with:

- Highly qualified, well respected Headmaster, Biraia Asmare
- Learning resources and classroom essentials
- Classes of 25 children where the national average is 60 children
- Highly qualified and well-resourced teachers
- School uniforms
- 2 nutritious meals a day and clean water
- Safe and reliable transportation to and from school
- Health and welfare support
- Well-maintained library, sports hall, IT room, science lab and health centre
- Spacious outside play and sports area

Our academic results are four times better than the national average. In a country where half of all children leave school by the age of 8, our retention rate is an extraordinary 98%. Well over 60% of girls are illiterate in the region and removed from school to work or to be married – St. George's School has had a 100% retention of girls over the past 8 years.

St. George's School also help the local community with employment opportunities, a micro financing programme and with land for local farmers.

Our values

We adhere to many traditional values that promote kindness, collaboration, creativity, good communication, respect and honesty. These values, along with a first class education, equip our children for the next stage of their education and give them skills for life.

The Ethiopian education system

The Ethiopian school system consists of eight years of elementary education, divided into two cycles of four years, and four years of secondary education, divided into two stages of two years.

Education	School/Level	Age	Years	Notes
Primary	Elementary	5-10	8	Divided into 4-year cycles
Secondary	Junior Secondary		2	Ethiopian General Secondary Education Certificate (EGSLCE) awarded since 2001
Secondary	Senior Secondary	13-16	2	Ethiopian School Leaving Certificate (ESLC) awarded until 2003. Ethiopian Higher Education Entrance Examination (EHEEE) Since 2003
Vocational	(TVET) Level III Diploma		3	
Tertiary	Bachelor of Education		3-4	4 years before 1994, 3 years after 1994
Tertiary	Bachelor of Arts/Science		3-4	
Tertiary	Master		1-3	
Tertiary	Doctorate		3-7	PhD



Our Structure



St. George's School

- St. George's School now educates over 500 children
- Children start in Kindergarten age 5 and goes through Prep, Grade 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.
- The curriculum of St George's School uses the syllabus provided by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Ministry of Education and Amhara Regional Bureau of Education.
- The hours of study for each subject provided by the Ministry are adhered to and in fact, the school provides more hours of education than the minimum requirement.
- The curriculum is further enhanced using methods used in the UK to teach English. Examples of these are the teaching of English sounds, pronunciation, word building and reading through the Jolly Phonics programme; one lesson per week using the tablet technology, and one lesson designated in the library.
- As with children in the UK, in Grade 8 the children will sit an entrance examination for entry to secondary school. All our Grade 8 children will sit for Kings Academy, Gondar, a private high quality secondary school who have agreed to take the Grade 8 children from St. George's and continue their education until 18 years old when we anticipate they will move on to University or apprenticeships.

The school day

- 8.00 Arrival
- 8.00-8.50 Breakfast/ Quiet homework catch up
- 8.50-10.50 3 lessons
- 10.50-11.20 Break
- 11.20-1.00 2 lessons
- 1.00-1.40 Lunch
- 1.40-3.00 2 lessons
- On Friday the school finishes at lunchtime and the morning is mainly taken up with tests

Lessons Grades KG -4

- Amharic 5 periods
- Maths 5 periods
- English 5 periods
- Science 5 periods
- Jolly Phonics/ Grammar 5 periods
- Tablet 1 period
- Music 2 periods
- PE 2 periods
- Art 1 period
- Library Period 1 period

Lessons Grades 5-6

- Amharic 5 periods
- Maths 5 periods
- English 5 periods
- Science 5 periods
- Civics 3 periods
- Geography 3 periods
- Music 2 periods
- PE 2 periods
- Art 1 period
- Library Period 1 period

Grades 7-8

- Amharic 5 periods
- Maths 5 periods
- English 5 periods
- Biology 3 periods
- Chemistry 3 periods
- Physics 3 periods
- Civics 3 periods
- Geography 3 periods
- PE 2 periods

Our selection process

Selection Criteria

A strict criteria is adhered to in the selection process with the overriding factor as level of poverty and living on less than \$1 a day. For example, a child could be an orphan but is being cared for in an environment where there is no or little poverty, therefore that child would not qualify for a place at St. George's. Once the level of poverty is ascertained the following conditions are considered including if...

- A child is an orphan
- A child is dependent on another family or member of the community for their care, shelter and upkeep
- Single parent family
- A child that is deemed to be very vulnerable because of other circumstances not listed above.



Selection Process

The selection process takes 4 weeks and involves a number of key stages

- 1) Written advertisements are placed in two places: at the Kebele (local government) offices, and secondly at the school. The Kebele (similar to our Parish Council) also send their volunteers to localities nearby to publicise, register and call the people who they believe will qualify – recognising that most people who might have an eligible child are likely not to be able to read the written notice.
- 2) A screening committee is set up by the Kebele and school, who will check all the children to see if they meet the strict criteria. The parent/guardian is invited, with the child, to the school for an interview – they are asked to bring any documentation confirming age of the child. However, it is more common that no documentation exists and a little detective work is required by the kebele and staff who most likely will know the families.
- 3) SGS staff (teachers etc) will conduct home visits to gather and triangulate information
- 4) The headteacher and key SGS staff then will check the forms against the criteria.
- 5) A list of names is sent by SGS to the Kebele for final authorisation.

Choosing a student to sponsor



When you sponsor a child we hope you will continue your support for a children's entire educational journey at St. George's School and then beyond through secondary school. All the children requiring a sponsor are featured on the website, with a picture and a short biography. You can choose which child you would like to sponsor as you go through the payment process.

Most of the children who need a sponsor are our Kindergarten intake, we offer 50 places each year to carefully chosen orphans or the most vulnerable children in the region. However, we do have children further up the school who, for whatever reason, no longer have a sponsor and we are so grateful when a new sponsor comes in for these children. Our aim is to keep our sponsors for a child's entire education.



Managing your sponsorship

- Sponsoring a child at St. George's costs just £1 a day. For this the child receives:
 - A completely free education
 - Two nutritious meals a day
 - All educational resources
 - Healthcare and development checks
 - School uniform
 - Transport to and from school
- As a sponsor you will receive
 - Picture and information about your child
 - Regular newsletters from St. George's
 - Christmas card from your sponsored child
 - End of year academic report on your child's progress

Payment

We offer a payment system of £30 per month or £360 per annum. The charities preferred method of payment is monthly direct debit. If you choose this method your sponsorship will be automatically renewed. If there is a change in your payment details, such as your card expires or is cancelled you will receive an email from the charity asking you to update your payment details.



Communication & gift guidelines

Once you have sponsored a child we will send you a thank you letter and a card featuring a photograph of your selected child and a biography. We will also send you each year:

- Regular newsletters updating you with all that is happening at St. George's School
- A Christmas Card from your child
- A twice yearly communication from your child which will either be a letter or a drawing/painting which they will have done especially for you
- An annual Class Photo and Whole School Photo
- An end of year Report Card showing your child's achievements over the course of the year

Should you wish to send a letter or a card to your child, we can arrange for this to be sent digitally.

We ask sponsors to avoid sending gifts, as these children really have absolutely nothing, so it would be problematic to give a gift to one child and not to all the others. We ask that a gift could take the form of providing something for the whole class, so perhaps a donation for extra stationery or games for the classroom, as an example.



Community

Our impact goes beyond the pupil, extending to families and the entire community. There is essential focus on community welfare and education through outreach programmes and access to skills-based learning.

- Mother and toddler groups let children play and learn while their mothers access healthcare advice.
- A programme to train local women as tailors, traditionally a male career
- A successful farming project with local Teff farmer with 50% of crops feeding the school and the farmers selling the rest
- St. George's has created almost 70 skilled and unskilled jobs for local people, paying well above average salaries, and supports a further 600 in the supply chain. Within a local population of 50,000, St George's already benefits one in every 50 local people through employment, micro-financing and community outreach
- Multi-use teaching spaces allow pre/post school activities and are utilised by surrounding schools and the local community.



Moving on from St George's



We are constantly reviewing the future of St. Georges and a possible plan is to build a secondary school.

However, 2022 saw our first cohort of Grade 8 children graduating on from St George's and excitingly we secured an agreement with King's Academy (the best private secondary school in the area) for them to continue their education there.

A graduation ceremony was held at St Georges's to mark this important milestone for both these children and St George's school. It was attended by representatives from the Mayor's office, the Kebele, military, the Department of Education and local elders who all expressed their appreciation and happiness towards the first eight years of the school and the amazing progress that has been made.

All the students wore t-shirts in recognition of the support they have received for their education from their sponsors and donors.

The ceremony included a speech from the Mayor's representative who also presented certificates to all the graduates, alongside blessings from the elders of the community. The graduates performed poems and speeches of thanks.

We have secured an agreement with King's Academy have to take all our Grade 8 students on an ongoing basis, subject to their passing the state entrance exams.

Given our children's results are always in the top 98% of the region, we are absolutely confident all our future Grade 8 students will be going on to King's Academy and we will continue to sponsor them throughout their time at King's.



Kings Academy, Gondar

Kings Academy is based in Gondar and is a private secondary school, around 12km from St. George's School. The curriculum and school day are very similar to that of secondary schools in the UK. The school day starts at 8am and finishes at 3pm. Subjects studied include sciences (chemistry, biology, physics), maths, English, history, Amharic, Civics, Economics, ICT. Girls and boys play football, handball, running and basketball, alongside general fitness and sports activities. Classes are around 35-40 students.

St George's students making the move to King's are given the King's uniform and are allowed to choose their own backpack, like any child would when joining a new school.

Their day starts at St. George's where they have breakfast and are given their packed lunch. They are then escorted by bus to King's Academy and at the end of their day they take the bus back again to St. George's. On return to St. George's they receive a snack and a homework club is run between 4.30-5.30pm supervised by a volunteer teacher.

The nurse at St. George's continues to monitor their health and continues any treatments they may be on. A male and female St. George's teacher have been assigned as NAEF Secondary School ambassadors - a pastoral care role to oversee the transition, look after their health and wellbeing and to be available to the students for any problems on an on-going basis.

SGS children will be mixed into different social sets for learning so they are not perceived as a single different group. Every step of their transition to Kings Academy will be monitored and any help given.

Future forecast for SGS students

It is our hope to sponsor these boys and girls on to university after their time at Kings Academy in order to truly fulfil NAEF's mission to build an educated community of future leaders in Ethiopia.



Visiting & volunteering

We love welcoming visitors at St. George's. Sadly since 2020 due to the covid pandemic and the continuing civil war and unrest, travel to Ethiopia has been impossible.

Hopefully the situation is slowly changing and we will once again be able to open our doors to visitors. If at such time you would be interested in a trip to Ethiopia and to the school, please get in touch at info@naef.uk.com





THANK YOU

We hope that you find being a sponsor rewarding. We believe that every child has the right to a safe, formal, quality education and access to lifelong learning. With your continued support we can help put the children at St. George's on the path to a brighter future.



www.NAEF.uk.com