



## Our Scholarships (2018)

We provide education scholarships so children from poor families in Kenya can complete their secondary education. These scholarships are required because children often find that, whilst they attend primary school until they are 12 or 13, they are then needed in their families to work and help provide food. This is made worse as all schools' charge fees.

Whilst state school fees are modest by Western standards, they are often unaffordable for impoverished families. In rural villages and city slums income is around \$1 a day, barely enough to survive let alone pay for 'luxuries' like schooling. For example, we met with a group of mothers who get up at 4am twice a week to walk 12km to buy vegetables which they then sell at a nearby market. From two sacks of vegetables which they can sell in a day, they make 200 Kenyan Shillings – that's around £1.50.

The situation is made worse if the child's parents did not complete even primary school themselves or if they have lost one or both parents to malaria, AIDS, or other illnesses.

We firmly believe that education is the key to overcoming poverty, and if children lose the opportunity to move onto secondary school they miss the chance to better themselves and improve the lot of their families.

Scholarships can be provided for as little as £25 a month and your support can be life changing. Many of the children we sponsor are the first in their family to have the chance to complete their education. All are children who will not be in school without our support – at a school which matches your budget.

Your scholarship will then cover their school fees, PLUS accommodation and food for a year.

We ask the family or local community to provide their uniform and books as we believe it is important that the family or community maintain some investment in their future. If the child is a complete orphan, then the scholarship might cover these costs too.

All we ask is that you support your chosen child for the **four years** through secondary school.

### ***How are the children identified?***

Students are selected for scholarships based on a combination of academic ability and need. Funds are awarded to children who would otherwise not go to secondary school.

The selection is overseen locally by individuals nominated by **TheRedRubberBallFoundation**, who are independent of the local school system.



This ensures that the selection is appropriate and children who do well in their primary school exams can take up a place their family could not otherwise afford.

Experience suggests that children who score over 300 in their KCPE exams at primary school (out of 500) and complete the full four years at secondary school, will have the aptitude to go on to a state University (with subsidized fees and access to a student loan).

### ***Will it be a boy or a girl?***

It could be either – we try to provide scholarships for an equal number of boys and girls. If you have a preference please let us know, we will try to match it.

Either way, you will know the name and school of the child you are sponsoring, and you will support this child through their secondary schooling. We'll also let you know why that child has been selected – the family circumstances which mean they can't afford their school fees.

That way, if you want to, you can take an interest in their progress.

### ***How is the school identified?***

There are private and state schools in Kenya. Our scholarships are for state schools only.

The schools are then classified as national, provincial or district according to performance, capacity, and facilities. National schools are the most prestigious, taking the best performing children from the KCPE state exams (like SATS in the UK). However, national schools have higher fees.

The school selected will depend on your budget. For 2018 scholarships are provided for children to board at school as follows:-

District School	= £320 donation + gift aid	= £400 total school fees boarding
Provincial School	= £480 donation + gift aid	= £600 total school fees boarding
National School	= £640 donation + gift aid	= £800 total school fees boarding

The children are offered a secondary school place based on their KCPE primary school exam results.

National schools generally select children scoring 400+ (out of 500); a score of around 350 will qualify for a place at a provincial school; and a child achieving 250+ will be offered a district place.

Most schools are full-board because of the distances children often must travel. Boarding also means that they can devote all their time to their studies, rather than having to do household chores which keep them from school.

Moreover by receiving all meals at school, it eases the burden on the family. There are other benefits too – the school may well have access to electricity, so the children can do their homework after dark. At home, it's often the light of a kerosene lamp at best.

We offer scholarships to a small number of children in two projects as day-only pupils. These cater for two specific issues:

1. In the Kibera slums, an especially poor area, where children can attend the Raila Education Center where we have based our Kibera Cycling Club – the first state school in Kenya to offer a cycling and bike maintenance programme
2. In Nyanza province, young girls of 12 to 18 who are HIV+ and have already had a child themselves can attend St Peters Disii Secondary School and are guided by the Scars to Stars programme.

Day-only fees = £200 donation + gift aid = £250 total school fees.

### ***What happens then?***

We visit the schools each term to get an update on your sponsored child's progress. We'll send you a copy of their school report, so you know how they're doing. We can then also offer further help if it is needed – for example, remedial teaching, additional books etc.

We do not set target grades for the children to achieve or saddle them with any additional expectations – we simply want to give children the opportunity of an education. The rest is up to them. The children know that a B+ grade in their final secondary school exams should secure them a state university place, and the chance to further their education.

We do however reserve the right to withdraw a scholarship if a child is not putting in any effort (we've not yet had to do this).

The children know that your support is for the four years of secondary school which gives them the chance of a better education. We are not committing to support them if they subsequently receive a university or college place after that – though some sponsors have chosen to do this. We stress that this is the sponsor's free choice.

### ***Will the child know who is sponsoring them?***

Yes. We write to each child at least once each year ourselves, so they will know that you are providing their scholarship.

### ***Will the child write back?***

We encourage each child to write and you are welcome to write to them. Some sponsors like to hear about the child, their family, school, what they enjoy doing etc. As soon as we can, we'll also send you a photo of the child you sponsor.

We do know that the children like to receive a photo of their sponsor.

Some sponsors like to write – others don't. It's fine either way.

### ***How do you know the money is being used for education?***

All school fees are paid by **TheRedRubberBallFoundation** directly to the secondary school; only to their bank account and only once we have official confirmation of their fee structure.

We never make payments to the family themselves.

This ensures that everything is transparent and that you can be confident your money is going to the right place.

### ***How do you know the child is in school?***

We receive copies of the school reports which we'll send on to you and show the progress being made by each child. Our local contacts near to each school are independent and live in the communities that the children come from, so soon become aware if there are any problems or if children are not attending.

For example:

One young girl who was receiving a scholarship became pregnant. We were able to contact the family and help them make arrangements for the child to be looked after so the girl could continue her schooling.

We also had one child who missed part of one term when her mother was ill, and the child was required to look after her. This proved to be short term so we were able to continue the sponsorship and the child caught up the work she had missed.

We have also assisted students with ointment and reading glasses for eyesight disorders, so they could continue school and have even helped one move school be closer to her optician as she needed regular check-ups.

### ***Paying It Forward – what's that?***

One of the principles behind our work is the "pay it forward" concept - where the beneficiary of a good deed carries out a good deed for someone else.

We make it clear to the children that they don't owe anything to **TheRedRubberBallFoundation** or their sponsor. We are giving the scholarship freely.

We just ask that each child commits to one good deed in return – helping someone achieve things that they cannot accomplish on their own. For example, we know that children 'pay it forward' in ways such as:

- offering to mentor a younger child at their school or previous primary school
- volunteering to teach at a local school or nursery.

In this way, the practice of helping one another can spread maximising the impact of the original good deed many times over.

### ***What is school life like?***

Boarding means that school days are long. Children typically wake at around 5am. They have private study until 6am when they do an hour of manual work, sweeping up, washing floors, fetching water etc. At 7am they have breakfast and lessons begin at 8am. Lunch is taken at 12.30 and the afternoon lessons begin at 2pm, through to games at 3.30pm. Students have a break between 5pm and 6.30pm when they take supper and then they have evening lessons from 7pm to around 9.30pm when they go to bed.

### ***What if you have further questions?***

Please simply contact us on 01707 395850, or at [neil@redrubberball.co.uk](mailto:neil@redrubberball.co.uk).

### ***And to support a child?***

Fantastic.

Simply think about your budget and the level of scholarship you'd like to provide:

District School	= £320 donation + gift aid	= £400 total school fees boarding
Provincial School	= £480 donation + gift aid	= £600 total school fees boarding
National School	= £640 donation + gift aid	= £800 total school fees boarding

or

Day-only fees	= £200 donation + gift aid	= £250 total school fees
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or let us know your budget if you'd like to donate a different amount.

Then contact us on 01707 395850, or at [neil@redrubberball.co.uk](mailto:neil@redrubberball.co.uk), and we'll do the rest.

Neil





**TheRedRubberBallFoundation**

An independent charity, set up

“To help young and disadvantaged people in the UK and overseas develop their capabilities so that they may make the most of their abilities and make a full contribution to society”

**01707 395850**

**[www.redrubberball.co.uk](http://www.redrubberball.co.uk)**

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