

# Afrikaya Child Sponsorship Policy

*Updated January 2026*

## **Information for Potential Sponsors**

Afrikaya recognises that, for some families in our school's catchment area, meeting the cost of a nursery place can be challenging. At the same time, Afrikaya Nursery School must ensure that we can employ high-quality staff and provide a nutritious daily meal for every child.

To support families who need help, we have created the **Afrikaya Child Sponsorship Programme**.

This policy explains:

- The cost of child sponsorship
- What sponsorship covers and how long it lasts
- Who is eligible for a sponsored place
- How parents apply
- How decisions are made
- Our safeguarding and child protection commitments
- How the Afrikaya programme differs from many others

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## **Cost of Sponsorship**

Sponsoring a child costs **£15 per month (or £180 per year)**.

Payments can be made monthly or annually via **JustGiving**.

If you are a UK taxpayer, **Gift Aid adds an extra 25%** to your donation at no additional cost to you.

If you are not a UK taxpayer, do not wish to use JustGiving, or live outside the UK, please contact us to arrange an alternative method of payment.

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## **What Sponsorship Covers**

Your sponsorship helps provide:

- School fees
- School uniforms
- Learning materials (books, exercise books, pens, pencils, paints, paper, play resources)
- A healthy meal each school day
- Primary health care from a qualified nurse

- A contribution to the School Development Fund, which supports staff training, maintenance, and new equipment

Parents and caregivers are asked to provide:

- Shoes
- A school bag
- A small annual registration fee
- A small monthly contribution towards after-school study classes

The wider school community is also encouraged to raise funds locally to support the School Development Fund.

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## **How Long Sponsorship Lasts**

A child's sponsorship continues as long as:

1. The family's circumstances remain the same
2. The child remains enrolled at Afrikaya Nursery School

If a sponsor leaves the programme, Afrikaya will seek a new sponsor so the child's place is not affected.

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## **What Sponsors Receive**

As a sponsor, you will receive:

1. A photograph of the child you sponsor
2. A family profile introducing the child and their circumstances
3. An annual progress report and updated photograph
4. A sponsorship guide explaining how communication and visits work
5. A copy of the Afrikaya Safeguarding Policy
6. Regular updates from Afrikaya

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## **Who Can Apply for a Sponsored Place?**

Families are encouraged to seek support from relatives or friends first.

If this is not possible, a parent or guardian may apply for sponsorship if:

1. They are a single parent/guardian on a low income
2. There are more than five school-age children in the immediate family
3. They have adopted or fostered the child and receive no financial support

4. The child has a disability that places additional financial pressure on the family
5. The family income is below **D200 per day**

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## Application and Decision-Making Process

1. The parent or caregiver applies to the **Head of Teaching** (verbally or in writing).
2. The Head of Teaching records all applications confidentially.
3. The **Afrikaya Sponsorship Committee** (Head of School and Head of Teaching) reviews all applications.
4. The committee selects, by consensus, the children for whom sponsorship will be sought.
5. With parental consent, the Head of School shares the child's name, age, brief family details, and photograph with the Afrikaya Chair of Trustees in the UK.

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## Child Protection and Safeguarding

Afrikaya places the highest priority on the safety and dignity of every child.

Our safeguarding commitments include:

1. **Informed consent** is always obtained before collecting information, photographs, or videos.
2. All contact details of sponsors, children, and families are kept strictly confidential.
3. Sponsors receive only the information necessary to support their sponsored child.
4. No personal information is shared with non-sponsors.
5. Sponsors must agree that:
  - No identifiable photos or information about the child will be posted on social media
  - All communication will be respectful and appropriate
6. All letters or parcels for a sponsored child must be sent to Afrikaya's UK address, where trustees will check items before forwarding them.
7. Visits to sponsored children must follow the **Afrikaya Visits Policy**, including:
  - Visits arranged only through Afrikaya, normally with two months' notice
  - No direct contact with children or families outside approved channels
  - A staff member present throughout any visit
  - No child may be taken off school premises unless accompanied by a parent/guardian or Afrikaya staff

- Afrikaya will not facilitate travel for any child to a sponsor's country
- A report of each visit is sent to the Chair of Trustees
- Monetary gifts to children or families are discouraged to avoid inequality

8. If a sponsor does not follow Afrikaya's policies, Afrikaya may end the sponsorship relationship to protect the child and maintain community trust.
9. If an application is declined or sponsorship ends, the Chair of Trustees will write to the individual explaining the decision.

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## How Our Sponsorship Programme Is Different

At Afrikaya, **children are at the heart of everything we do.**

We believe their safety, dignity, and voice must always come first.

We ensure this by:

1. Encouraging children to express their ideas and concerns so they are heard within their community
2. Requiring everyone involved to follow the Afrikaya Safeguarding Policy

We believe that when one child is given the chance to reach their potential, their family and community benefit too.

Afrikaya Nursery School is **non-religious and non-political.**

Children are welcomed into the sponsorship programme regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, political views, or religion.

We respect all cultural differences and do not promote any religious or political agenda in The Gambia.

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