



3What does a sponsorship of a child cover?

Sponsorship covers school fees for the whole year, a uniform, stationary and exercise books for the year as well as a full set of textbooks.

Full sponsorship means the gift is US \$228/£140 per year (for other currencies visit www.xe.com). If you choose this option, you will be the sole sponsor of one student. For half sponsorship, the gift is US\$114/£70 per year and the sponsor will share one student's sponsorship with another sponsor who the school will find. In both cases you will get the same information, letters and updates from the school – there is no difference in the level of contact either way

May I send a present to my sponsored student?

You are not expected to, but you can. Sponsors tend to send a small gift to their sponsored child in response to an improved school report or just as a sign of friendship. Please keep the gifts small, simple, and also appropriate for Ethiopia. Toys which need batteries for example are not a great idea as most of our families cannot afford batteries. Some ideas are listed below.

Please send it to the following address by normal airmail not by sea mail:

Dawit Hailu,
ENGLISH ALIVE ACADEMY – (First and Last Name of Student)
PO Box 170222
Addis Ababa
ETHIOPIA

To make sure parcels arrive and incur no expenses for the school:

- Please do NOT register or insure any mail as it costs the school at least US\$ 25 in taxes at our end.
- Mark all parcels as being “second-hand goods” or “personal gifts”.
- Ensure the description of goods written on the parcel matches the actual items inside as customs and postal staff frequently inspects contents of parcels.
- Please label all parcels clearly with the first and last name of the student and your full name.
- Please put the value of the package at no more than US\$ 5 (the lower the better). Tax-free items include: Books, Personal goods and anything that is not new. Used goods, used clothes, etc... (Please remove labels and packaging from all items before sending them)

Keep in mind that parcels sent by airmail can take up to a month to get here (sea mail is even longer), so don't worry if it takes a while for us to let you know the parcel has arrived. We will always let you know by email when the parcel has been given to your student.

What can I send?

According to our policy the pupils are not allowed to ask for things. Therefore, please help us by not asking them what they would like to have. Also, not all children receive gifts from their sponsors. We ask you for your understanding, and if you choose to send a gift, we request



any packages to contain a few small things only, and items that can be shared with siblings and neighbours.

Here are some ideas we recommend:

For boys and girls: Re clothing: Families can get good, second hand clothing very cheaply in the markets in town, so instead we recommend; quality underwear; a waterproof school backpack; quality colouring pencils (e.g. Crayola, Staedtler or Faber-Castell); sharpeners; pencil-case; dictionary ; books (see last page). And lastly our students absolutely love receiving stickers and photos of their sponsor's family, or a map!

For girls: a skipping rope, inexpensive jewellery (e.g. from a \$2-shop), tennis balls, or small simple toys.

Clothing: If you do decide to send skirts or dresses, be aware that East African culture is conservative therefore, sleeveless, body-hugging clothes and mini-skirts are not appropriate. For boys: a soccer ball, a pump for the football, juggling balls, a baseball cap, a beanie, toy cars, anything science related.

Reading books: Feel free to send any reading or educational books that you think appropriate, but if you would like some recommendations, see "Book Suggestions" at the end of this document.

PLEASE DO NOT send DVDs, computer games or things that require electricity or batteries. Even though batteries are available here, we do not want the students to put pressure on their parents to buy batteries. As much as possible please ensure gifts can be shared easily.

Can I send photos?

You can send photos of your family and pets, as well as postcards of the area you live in. Please be mindful that Ethiopia is a conservative country and it is not appropriate to send photos of individuals wearing swimwear or other revealing clothing.

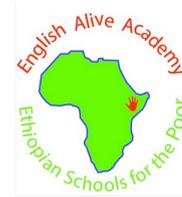
Should or can I send a birthday or Christmas present?

Birthdays are not a very big celebration here in Ethiopia and presents are not recommended. Please understand that some children don't even know their date of birth, and even some parents would have to consult the birth certificate (if they still have it). The Ethiopians who do know their birthday might get congratulations if the family remembers, or the birthday might go completely unnoticed. We discourage our sponsors from sending birthday or Christmas gifts simply because we do not want to impose our culture on them and giving gifts is not as important in Ethiopia – your sponsored student won't be disappointed if they do not receive a birthday or Christmas present from you. Also your student may be Muslim and therefore not celebrate Christmas.

Can I write letters or emails to my sponsored student?

You are more than welcome to communicate with your sponsored student. To send a letter by post, use our postal address with the student's first and last name. It is always very exciting for the children to receive a "real" letter with stamps from a foreign country and photographs of their sponsors – these often become part of their family album! Some sponsors ask if they can send emails to the students they sponsor. This is difficult as the school does not have internet access.

When you write to your sponsored student, bear in mind that their world is their village. Our students' families struggle to make ends meet and most do not have access to a TV with



world news, therefore events such as the Olympic Games might never have been heard of. They love to hear about your family, the names and ages of all family members, etc. Your sponsored student would love a photo of yourself and your family. Also please adapt your language to the lingual skills of your child (for grade 3 and lower use simple English, whereas grade 4 can understand fairly well, and KG Pupils cannot understand more than “my name is” and “how old are you”, but we are happy to help them read the letter).

Can I visit my sponsored student?

The answer is YES! You are always welcome to visit the school and meet your sponsored student. Please contact us well in advance to make sure we can accommodate you at the school. Contact us through at : info@englishaliveacademy.org

Can I bring a gift when visiting my sponsored student’s family?

If you would like to bring a gift for your sponsored student’s family, a framed photo of your family, postcards and tea towels from your country, or fleece blankets are always well received. Kerosene stoves and thermos can also be purchased locally, along with soap, sugar, tea, rice, flour and biscuits. Please tell us if you like to purchase a “home pack” of goods well in advance of your home visit.

Can you please explain the classes and semesters at English Alive Academy?

The Ethiopian school year is from September (after Ethiopian New Year) to July. We have two semesters a year, with a week’s mid-semester break. During the long summer holiday (July – September) English Alive Academy runs an intensive English programme which is run by foreign volunteers and is open to all children in the town.

- Kindergarten Primary School (located in the central area of the town) This school accommodates: two nursery classes, two KG 1 classes, one KG 2 class.
- Grade School (located in the centre of the town) which accommodates a single class for each of the four grades – 1 to 4.
- Kindergarten and Grade (located on the outskirts of the town) catering for pupils aged 3 – 12

What does half and full sponsorship mean?

Sponsors have two choices when sponsoring a student. Full sponsorship means the gift is US \$228/ £140 per year (for other currencies visit www.xe.com). If you choose this option, you will be the sole sponsor of one student. For half sponsorship, the gift is US \$114/ £70 per year and the sponsor will share one student’s sponsorship with another sponsor who the school will find. In both cases you will get the same information, letters and updates from the school – there is no difference in the level of contact either way.

When are my next sponsorship fees due?

Your sponsorship renewal fees are due 12 months after commencement of your sponsorship. A reminder email will be sent to you at least two weeks before the next fees are due. This email will remind you of the methods of payments as well as the amount of the sponsorship fee.



Are my sponsorship donations tax-deductible?

YES – although currently only for UK taxpayers. If you are a UK taxpayer, the value of your gift can be increased by 25% under the Gift Aid plan at no extra cost to you. This means that a donation of £ 10 could be worth an extra £ 2.50 to us.

Simply tick the GIFT AID box when making a donation and / or email us telling that you wish to apply Gift Aid at info@englishaliveacademy.org

For more information about Gift Aid see our information sheet – [Gift Aid FAQ](#)

Can we choose the student?

Unfortunately this is not possible. However you may choose the gender of your child. Instead, the process that we use to find a child for you to sponsor is as follows:

- Ø A request for applications is placed on the school gate for the general public to read.
- Ø Families of the children who want to apply go to the local council where their situation is verified. This is written down as a statement and officially recognized by the local council.
- Ø The family of the child present the application to the school.
- Ø The board of directors meets to decide which child is the most worthy, using the criteria of current financial situation, alternative opportunities (if any) , family situation, and medical situation.
- Ø The child for sponsorship is chosen and the sponsor is informed of the choice and the child's current situation.

BOOK SUGGESTIONS:

For visiting sponsors or to send by post. This is NOT A LIBRARY WISH LIST, below are suggestions for individual gifts to students only:

- English dictionaries – simple picture ones for younger students and primary school ones for older students.
- Atlas (choose one suitable for your sponsored child's age group)
- Fairy Tales – favourites are Cinderella, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel
- Books about sports, football/soccer (especially for the boys)
- Books about famous African sports people and role models
- Books on the solar system. Most kids here love hearing about outer space.
- Kindergarten and Grade 1 pupils
- Stories with very simple English and rhyming words
- Bananas in Pyjamas series
- Playschool series
- We All Went on Safari by Laurie Krebs
- Spot series by Eric Hill
- Grade 2 / 3 / 4
- Dr Seuss
- Disney e.g. The Lion King, Aladdin, Beauty and the Beast, Jungle Book, Tarzan
- We All Went on Safari by Laurie Krebs
- Magic School Bus series by Joanna Cole
- Berenstain Bears series by Stan and Jan Berenstain
- Space books
- Animal books
- Encyclopaedias
- Information books (any relevant subject)