



**BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES  
IN KENYA AND NORTH-EAST SCOTLAND**

Child Sponsorship  
Information Pack



Thank you for your interest in sponsoring the education of a child with GEF.

We hope that this is the beginning of a life changing connection for both yourself and your sponsored child.

As of January 2025, we have been able to support over 650 children through education; 274 have completed primary, 191 have completed secondary and 72 have completed college/university. Many have gone on to find work in fields such as medicine, beauty therapy, engineering, hospitality, carpentry, retail and the military.

All of this simply would not have been possible without our wonderful child sponsors.

Your monthly support of £35 covers the cost of primary, secondary and tertiary fees, uniform, school bag, shoes, school meals, stationery, books (and menstrual care products for girls). It also includes accommodation costs for college and university students living away from home.

Alongside your sponsorship, through separate donations and fundraising, we also help families in Kenya through house building, food/farming and psychosocial support. Over the past 10 years we have been able to build 60 houses for 264 children and their families and deliver 50 seminars for over 3,000 attendees.

Thank you very much for your generous support.

Yours sincerely,

Gideon Gathimba and Myles Edwards



**We believe that every child in life deserves a chance to excel and we encourage the children we support to make the most of the opportunity they have been given.**

### **How the sponsorship works**

Our team pay school fee and meal monies directly to the respective schools and go uniform, shoe and bag shopping with the children. The costs of education vary depending on the institution and stage of education a child is at. Most of the children are at primary school level when GEF start supporting them - this means there is an accumulation of funds for when they reach secondary and tertiary education.

However, each January we aim to take on 6 new secondary school age children who are faced with being unable to join secondary due to a lack of funds. In these cases, due to there being a deficit of funds, we will source additional funds either through fundraising or a second child sponsor. Sponsors will always be made aware if a child requires 2 sponsors.

### **School system in Kenya**

As of January 2024, a new skills based school system of 2-6-3-3-3 was implemented in Kenya as an attempt to address one of the country's biggest challenges to development; youth unemployment. The previous 2-8-4-4 system had come under criticism for being partly responsible for creating a skills imbalance due to its lack of focus on sectors which accelerate economic growth such as agriculture, construction and fishing.

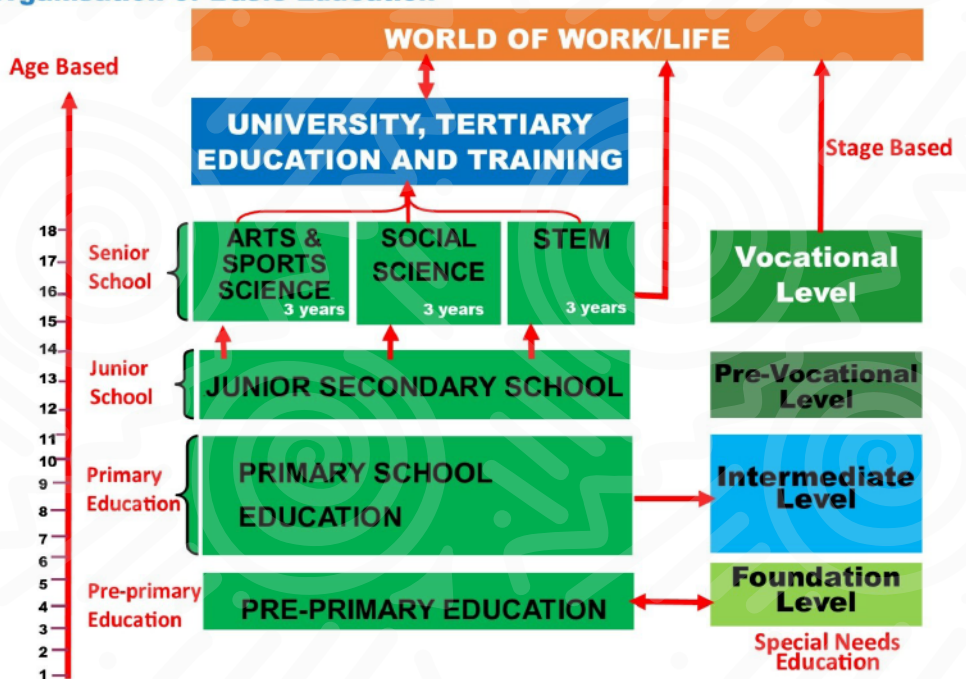
The new system consists of:

2 years Pre-Primary | 6 years Primary | 3 years Junior Secondary | 3 years Senior Secondary | 3 years+ College/University

This system is designed to enable students to develop beyond academics and focuses on how best they can use their specific talents to make a living. Learners will not sit exams but will instead be evaluated through Continuous Assessment Tests (CATs) on the skills acquired as opposed to cramming for exams which was the case previously.

Please note that the new school system is in its initial stages of implementation and there may be changes along the way.

## Organisation of Basic Education



## FAQS

### **What happens if I decide to stop my sponsorship payments?**

We understand that for different reasons sponsors may decide to stop their sponsorship. We kindly ask that you give us as much notice as possible so that we can strive to find an alternative sponsor. You are welcome at any point to email us for an update on how the child you previously supported is doing.

### **If I opt for receiving an annual report instead of letters, will I be informed of any change in the child's circumstances?**

Yes. We will also inform you of any relevant challenges the child is facing, providing these are not confidential matters the child has discussed with our psychosocial support team.

### **What happens when the child I support completes their studies?**

Children have the opportunity to join our GEF alumni group and will continue to have access to our counselling and seminar services.

Depending on the stage of education they have completed, and if funds are available, they may be supported to acquire skills or provided with items to kick start careers in the likes of hairdressing or joinery. Should you wish to find out how they are doing please get in touch with us and we will do our best to give you an update.

In terms of your sponsorship payments, one of our team will be in touch to ask if you prefer to stop payments or switch your support to a child on our waiting list.

### **What happens if the child I sponsor does not attain the grades they hoped to for university?**

Every GEF student is given the opportunity to undertake a short computer skills course. College courses are also an option providing the student meets the criteria set out in our Education Policy and if funds are available.

### **Does GEF support ever have to stop during a child's education?**

Whilst we do all we can to give children the chance of a bright future, it is important to be aware that sponsorship does not always guarantee success.

In some cases, we may not be able to continue the support of a child. This can be due to their family becoming economically stable, disciplinary issues or sadly in some cases the child passing away.

In any of these events we would get in touch with you to explain the situation and give you the option to stop payments or switch support to another child.



## Communications and updates

As a sponsor you will receive an annual report each January which includes up to date information on the child, their academic progress, what they have been up to, a photograph and any other relevant information.

For sponsors who enjoy and have the time to commit to letter/email writing, and if the child you support is comfortable and able to write, we will ensure that you receive a reply via email in May of each year in addition to the January report. In some cases, a more regular flow of letters might be possible, but this depends on the child's location and whether they are in a day or boarding school.

We regularly review the charity's procedures and practices to ensure we are making efficient use of front line staff time to focus on our principal activities linked to education, house building, food/farming & psychosocial support in Kenya, and our Neil Jaffrey Initiative in north-east Scotland. All decisions are made in the best interest of the children's wellbeing and seek to maximise the impact our small team are able to make for every child and family who benefit from your support.

Letters cannot be written at school, have to be supervised by GEF staff at the children's home during school holidays and sometimes involve our staff travelling long distances by motorbike on poor quality roads. As part of a review in January 2024, we realised that all sponsored children letter writing was resulting in staff being extremely busy during school holidays, as these are also the times when preparations are required for children returning to school.

Small children in particular require a lot of supervision and encouragement to complete even a very short letter or message. In some cases, the travel to a family's home combined with the time required to complete a letter can take up to 6 hours for one child. We also learned that some children struggled and felt nervous during the letter writing and video message process, but please rest assured that this in no way reflected their gratitude for support.



As you will see in the 'how to set up your sponsorship' section of this document, we ask you to indicate which form of correspondence you prefer.

If you have picked the option to receive a letter from your sponsor child our kids will hand write the letters in Kenya and they will be scanned and sent to you along with a photo via email to save postage costs.

After signing up to sponsor a child with GEF it would be lovely if you can write introducing yourself to the child and include any pictures of yourself/your family.

Sponsors can either send letters to one of the postal addresses in this document or scan/email to [info@gathimbaedwardsfoundation.org](mailto:info@gathimbaedwardsfoundation.org) and they will be printed for the children to read and keep.

If sending letters by post please ensure you check with us whether your sponsored child's GEF staff base is Iten or Karatina. In some cases you may find that your child has written his/her school or home address at the top of the letter but please ignore this and only use one of our GEF addresses below.

Please note that the postal service can sometimes be unreliable with letters or packages going missing.

Our two addresses in Kenya

**Gathimba Edwards Foundation**  
**FAO (Name of the child you are sponsoring)**  
**followed by**

**PO Box 149**  
**Iten 30700**  
**Kenya**

**or**

**PO Box 1363**  
**Karatina 10101**  
**Kenya**

We would be grateful if you would consider sharing a photo of your letter on social media. We realise that some people prefer to keep their support anonymous or that some letters may contain too personal of information, in which case it is no problem at all if you decide not to.

A positive word of mouth can encourage people to find out more about sponsoring a child which then enables us to support more children.

You can tag us on the following platforms



@gathimba\_edwards



GathimbaEdwardsFoundation



@GathimbaEdwards



gathimba-edwards-foundation

## **Gifts**

Some sponsors also like for their sponsored child to receive a gift at birthday or Christmas. These can be arranged by emailing us in advance to discuss the amount you'd like to spend followed by our team buying something locally in Kenya. This not only supports the local economy but also avoids the sometimes unreliable and costly postal service..

## **Meeting the child you support**

We try our best to make sure that you get the opportunity to meet your sponsored child if you travel to Kenya on one of our trips, however, this is not always possible if boarding schools have a no visitor policy during term time or if the child is based in a remote location.



## How to set up your sponsorship

In terms of starting your sponsorship of a GEF child please can we ask that you set up a standing order for £35 on the 1st of each month, with the child's name as a reference, to the following account.

### **Gathimba Edwards Foundation**

**IBAN: GB84BOFS80226012495163**

**BIC: BOFSGBS1SDP**

**Bank: Bank of Scotland**

**Account number: 12495163 Sort code: 802260**

**Address of Bank: Bank of Scotland, 39 Albyn Place, Aberdeen,  
AB10 1YN, Scotland, UK**

If you live outwith the UK and would prefer an alternative method of payment we gratefully accept subscription payments via PayPal to [info@gathimbaedwardsfoundation.org](mailto:info@gathimbaedwardsfoundation.org)

Please note PayPal take a small fee and so in order for the charity to receive the full £35 we kindly ask that you cover the fee. Fees vary depending on the country of origin.

**Please notify us when support has been set up by emailing  
[info@gathimbaedwardsfoundation.org](mailto:info@gathimbaedwardsfoundation.org)**

Further information we require from sponsors:

- Postal address
- Email address
- To whom your correspondence should be addressed

Should you change email/postal address please email us with new address – this is required for correspondence as well as gift aid purposes.

Please also confirm if you prefer

A – I am happy to receive an annual report instead of letters

B – I would like to receive an annual report but also find out if the child I sponsor is comfortable and able to reply to letters

## **Gift aid**

If you are a UK tax payer we can claim 25p for every £1 you donate from the UK Government. If possible please complete the form and return by post to our Aberdeen office or email it to [info@gathimbaedwardsfoundation.org](mailto:info@gathimbaedwardsfoundation.org).

All correspondence can be sent to:

Gathimba Edwards Foundation,

43 Albert Street,

Aberdeen, AB25 1XT,

Scotland, UK

# CHARITY DONATION & GIFT AID DECLARATION

**GATHIMBA EDWARDS**

*Foundation*

GIVING KIDS IN KENYA A CHANCE

**Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate**

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

- I want to Gift Aid my donation of £\_\_\_\_\_ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to:

**GATHIMBA EDWARDS FOUNDATION – Registered Scottish Charity Number SC044869**

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for the current tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for the current tax year. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given, from HMRC, at no extra cost to myself.

Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

## My Details

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Full Home address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

- Tick here if you would like to be added to our monthly newsletter. We will not share your personal information with any third parties.

*"The friendships made through this scheme are life long and the change being made is tangible. You will get back more than you give!"*

**Jon Millar, sponsor of Peterson**

with thanks

