

## National Exams and Qualifications

Most children will be at Groupe Scholaire for three or six years. At the end of year 3 they take a national examination equivalent to our GCSE. If successful they are allowed to continue to year 4 at Group Scholaire or elsewhere.

At the end of year 6 students take a further national exam, equivalent to our A-level. This exam also serves for university entrance. Success gives free university education, but students must pay for accommodation and food.

I wish to sponsor a day student/boarder at Groupe Scolaire de Shyira, making contributions:

- Once a year using a standing order
  - Once a year by cheque or cash
  - Monthly by standing order
- } Delete the two that do not apply

The amount of my payments will be £\_\_\_\_\_. Please send me details of a needy child at the school, and the information I need to make payments.

If you want the Trust to reclaim Gift Aid on your donation, please tick the box below. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in this tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for this tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the Trust will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

Title..... Forenames.....

Surname.....

Email .....

Address.....

Postcode.....Telephone .....

Please send this form, when completed, to:

Shyira Trust Child Sponsorship, c/o 29 Stapleton Rd., Formby, Liverpool, L37 2YN

# Shyira Trust

## Child Sponsorship Information Sheet.

In Rwanda poverty is widespread. Many people live off a small plot of land, growing food for their own family and hoping for some surplus that can be sold to buy clothing and other essentials. Quite often children will be expected to work on the family plot, or to look after siblings while their parents carry out some temporary paid work.

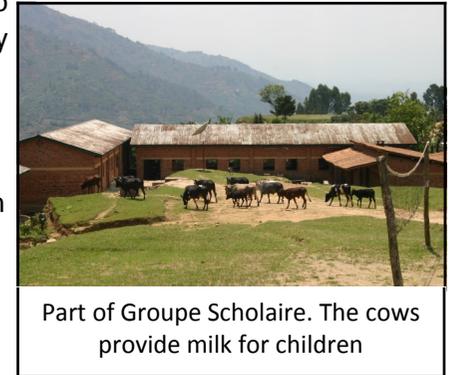
There is a vicious circle—Education can provide a way out of poverty but the need to eat means that families require children to work, and so deprive them of education.

The education system in Rwanda is based on a continental model—children must pass an examination before they progress to a higher class, or before they can move from primary to secondary school. Age is not a factor, and with so many children missing schooling it is not unusual to see teenagers in primary school.

Until recently all secondary schools in Rwanda were boarding schools. Now some take mostly day students with children who have no home to go to being boarders. Children must pay for various things, including uniforms, health insurance, part of their teachers salary, writing paper and national examinations. Additionally boarders, who are normally orphans, pay for food and accommodation.

Shyira is a small community in the hills of North West Rwanda. The population is only about 10,000, but it has three secondary schools. One of these schools is Groupe Scolaire de Shyira which has almost 600 students. It provides high quality education, specialising in Humanities and Bio-chemistry. It is students at this school that we sponsor.

Children enjoy exchanging letters with their sponsors. Many of the sponsored children are orphans or have only one parent, so their sponsor becomes important in their lives.



## What does it cost?



A Groupe Scholaire Dormitory

The short answer has to be less than you may think—about the cost of a cup of coffee a week for a boarder! The cost varies year-by-year because some items like uniform and national exam fees do not have to be paid for every year. However, we have agreed with the school that our sponsorship will be the same amount each year, and this will be the

average of all six years fees.

The annual fee is £72.50 for a day student and £135.00 for a boarder. Payment is possible either monthly by standing order, or by a single payment. If you are a UK tax payer and allow us to reclaim income tax through gift aid, then two options are possible. You can either reduce the amount you give by the amount of income tax we can claim, or you pay the full amount and we send the reclaimed tax to the school to help other students.



Students in class

Payment options are then as in the table below.

	Full Payment	Payment less tax
One off payment, boarder	£135	£108
One off payment, day student	£72.50	£58
12 Instalments, boarder	£11.25	£9
12 Instalments, day student	£6.05	£4.84

These are the costs for this year, but may vary from year to year, depending on the fees set by the government, the exchange rate at the time and UK tax rates.

## How is the cost made up?

The costs in the table opposite are fees set by the Rwandan government and the school, plus £1 per year to cover postage and bank charges for currency transfers to Rwanda. There is a basic cost for tuition and accommodation for boarders, plus other factors that vary year-by-year. In addition each student is expected to buy a ream of paper each year and year 1 students must buy gardening tools, while year 1 and 4 students must buy uniforms and bedding. Health insurance is also included.

Students in years 3 and 6 are required to take National Examinations and must pay an examination entrance fee.

At Groupe Scolaire there is a contribution from the Rwandan Government to help with staff salaries. Without that support the fees would be significantly more.

## From a sponsored student.

It was Sunday 20 February 2011 when a small group of people from Formby sat through a very emotional meeting with sponsored students. One of the students, speaking for all his companions read the following message. As you read remember that education provides a probable way out of poverty:

In the name of all these students I greet you. I'm here to give you our thanks. All of us thank you because of the lovely help that you provide us.

It is difficult to express joy and happiness that we have. Only God may. Many among us could have abandoned school but your help makes us study without problems. We try so hard, we do our best so as to make your help useful.

We have nothing to give you for reward, what we can only give you is to pray for you so that Almighty God reward you with his blessings and give you strength and kindness so that you can continue your help. The best of all we wish you eternal life.

By the way! My sponsor has not come yet at Shyira

For more information about the Trust, see <http://www.shyiratrust.org.uk>

Charity Number 1118979

Revision, April 2015

The Shyira Trust will not reveal any information contained on the form overleaf to any third party, and will not use the information except for the intended purpose of child sponsorship and claiming a tax refund if appropriate.