

How Sponsor A School works

You can help Mary's Meals reach many more hungry children – and give your fundraising a focus – by pledging to cover the cost of feeding a whole school for an entire year! Here's how Sponsor A School works:

1. Getting started

- Click start fundraising on the Mary's Meals website and you'll be able to view a list of schools currently available for sponsorship in Malawi, Liberia, Kenya and Zambia.
- Fundraising targets are set based on the number of children currently enrolled at the school multiplied by the global average cost to provide Mary's Meals to one child for a whole school year.
- This means that £13.90 / €15.60 / \$19.50 x the school enrolment number = a whole school without hunger for 12 months!
- Once you've selected a school, you can give your Sponsor A School project a snappy name, write a short blurb about why you're fundraising, and upload header and profile images. We then ask you to create an online Mary's Meals fundraising account.
- Once you've verified your account via email, your Sponsor A School project is active and you can share your fundraising project page – to which anyone can donate – with your friends, family or wider community. Happy fundraising!
- From the point your Sponsor A School project is active, you have up to 12 months to reach your fundraising target – though the sooner you get there, the sooner your school will be sponsored and you'll receive your report.

2. Reaching your target

- As soon as you reach your fundraising target – and thereby ensure the children at your school each receive a nutritious daily meal for a whole school year – your first year's sponsorship will begin. We'll contact you to say a huge "thank you" and confirm which short piece of wording you'd like to be displayed on a sign at your sponsored school. We'll then add your Sponsor A School project to our reporting schedule.
- The Mary's Meals fundraising team in your country can help you to decide on your sign wording. However, this should generally be as brief as possible (between 5 and 15 words) and wording will be subject to review before the sign is hand-painted locally. It is not generally possible to include a logo or image on a Sponsor A School sign, but please contact us if you have any questions.
- Within four months of your target being reached, we commit to preparing and sending you a bespoke report about your school's progress. We hope to provide the report even sooner if possible, however, Mary's Meals' low-cost approach – and our commitment to spending at least 93% of donations on our charitable activities – means we rely on a small and busy staff team to administer Sponsor A School. Owing to the challenging contexts in which we work, unexpected delays, outside of our control, may occasionally occur.
- Our Sponsor A School reports consist of special photographs and case study quotes from your sponsored school, including images of the sign that's been installed at the school to recognise your sponsorship. The reports are provided in the form of a unique web-link, which can be shared with your friends and family by email or on social media. It's also possible to export a PDF version for printing. Your Sponsor A School report will give you a real sense of how your support is attracting children to the classroom and providing hope for a brighter future!

3. Renewing your sponsorship

- It is our hope that Sponsor A School will help to build meaningful, long-lasting relationships between donors and their sponsored schools. That's why, once you've met your fundraising target for 'year 1', we'll reserve your school so that you can continue to sponsor it for a second year. A 'year 2' fundraising page will automatically be added to your Mary's Meals online account and any additional funds you raise will go towards your 'year 2' fundraising total.
- You will be asked to confirm whether you'd like to sponsor your chosen school for a second year via your Mary's Meals online account. If you click 'yes' to a second year of sponsorship, you will have 12 months to reach your new fundraising target. Any links you've shared to your fundraising project will automatically update to your 'year 2' fundraising page and any funds received will go towards your 'year 2' total.
- If you'd prefer not to continue your Sponsor A School project, you are free to decline the offer of 'year 2' sponsorship. At this point, any extra funds raised will be transferred back to your 'year 1' sponsorship total. If you have raised more than the amount required to feed every child in your chosen school for a whole school year, any additional funds will go towards our life-changing school feeding programme.
- We'll give you several weeks to decide whether or not you'd like to continue your Sponsor A School project. If we don't hear from you, we'll get in touch to check what your plans are. If we can't reach you, we may choose to release your school to another donor. Please contact us at any time to discuss the process for renewing your sponsorship.
- If you choose to end your Sponsor A School project, please be aware that your school will be released to other donors.
- To ensure your chosen school is fully sponsored at all times, we would encourage you to start fundraising for your next year of sponsorship as soon as the previous year's target has been reached.
- You will be able to access any previous online fundraising pages (although these will be closed to donations) and reports you have received about your sponsored school via your Mary's Meals online account. You can also share this information with friends and family by email or social media.
- The process and terms for moving between 'year 2' of sponsorship and 'year 3' – or any subsequent fundraising years – remains the same as described above.



- If your fundraising project is inactive for several months, we'll get in touch to see if there's anything we can do to help. If inactivity continues or if the 12-month fundraising period passes without the full fundraising target being met, we may choose – at the discretion of the fundraising team in your country – to release your school to another donor and allocate any money already raised to Mary's Meals' general funds. We're always keen to ensure money is not left sitting there when children can be fed. Please don't hesitate to contact us at any time if you need advice or support.
- Our website gives donors the option to cover the payment system transaction fee Mary's Meals incurs for every online donation made to Sponsor A School projects. Any amount donated with the purpose of covering a transaction fee will not count towards a Sponsor A School fundraising target.
- Conversely, tax incentive schemes supported through our website (such as Gift Aid in the UK) do count towards fundraising targets.
- In order to aid Mary's Meals' efficiency in administration and flexibility in meeting the greatest need, funds donated to Sponsor A School projects are restricted to the country in which the sponsored school is located, rather than to the specific school.
- The facilitation of direct communication between donors and their sponsored schools, or visits, or delivery of material aid, should not be assumed to form part of a Sponsor A School project. Please contact us for more information.
- In the event that you're unable to continue sponsoring your school, Mary's Meals would – as funds allow – endeavour to continue supporting school feeding using general funds donated to us, or by releasing your school to another donor for sponsorship.
- The supply of schools available for sponsorship through Sponsor A School is subject to availability.
- We may, at any time, make changes to our website or to these terms and conditions for how Sponsor A School works.
- We take reasonable care to ensure that all details and descriptions of schools are correct at the time when the relevant information was entered into our systems.

Thank you for considering starting your own Sponsor A School project! To discuss any aspect of Sponsor A School, please contact us.

