



## Child Sponsorship - Principles



Through the Tong-Len child sponsorship programme, displaced children from slum camps in Northern India and other desperately poor and homeless children are given the opportunity to live in a comfortable and secure hostel and receive a full education in the Tong-Len school.

The following principles underpin the child sponsorship programme:

1. All sponsorship money goes directly towards the support of the children. There are no significant overhead or administrative costs.
2. Individual children may have more than one sponsor. The annual cost for one child to attend school and live in the hostel is about 80,000 INR (approximately £800, \$1000 USD, \$1500 AUD, €950, depending on the exchange rate). As this is a considerable sum to seek from one sponsor, children may have up to 5 sponsors.
3. Sponsorship may be paid annually, quarterly, or monthly.
4. All sponsors are provided with details and photographs of their sponsored child (and can request, if they have a preference, to sponsor a boy or a girl).
5. Sponsors will receive updates on their sponsored child including photos and details of their progress in school. Sponsors will also receive regular updates on the hostel and slum camp projects

through the Tong-Len website, social media, and our regular newsletters.

6. Sponsors will be provided with the postal and email addresses for the Tong-Len Hostel to enable them to communicate with their sponsored children if they wish. As some children will have no direct contact with their sponsors, we request that emails and letters are written in a way that can be shared with other children. However, please feel free to share personal photos with your sponsored child if you wish.
7. We ask you not to send individual gifts as we try to ensure all children are treated equally. We welcome gifts that can be shared, so if you wish to send or bring something, we will be happy to discuss the options with you.
8. As you would expect, it is not possible for Tong-Len children to visit their sponsors overseas.

### **Sponsoring a day student**

The Tong-Len School also accepts any child still living in the slum to attend as a day pupil. Unfortunately, we cannot provide hostel accommodation for all the children in the slum, so need to limit hostel places to one per family. In situations where there is such severe hardship that a child's life may be in danger, this ruling is relaxed. The day pupils also receive nourishing food, showers, health care and are provided with the same uniforms and books as the hostel children. Annual sponsorship for a day child is 20,000 INR (£200, \$250 USD, \$360 AUD, €235) Each child usually only has one sponsor, but it is possible to share a day child's sponsorship between up to 4 sponsors. It is not possible for the day children to communicate with their sponsors regularly as there are insufficient hours in the school day to allow for this. However, sponsors will receive new photos at least annually and school reports at the end of each year.

For more information or to register interest in becoming a sponsor, please contact [anna@tong-len.org](mailto:anna@tong-len.org)

### **Guidelines for visits to the hostel and school**

If you wish to visit the Tong-Len hostel and school, please contact [info@tong-len.org](mailto:info@tong-len.org) / [anna@tong-len.org](mailto:anna@tong-len.org) / [hostel@tong-len.org](mailto:hostel@tong-len.org) . We will be delighted to provide advice – the children love to meet sponsors and other supporters. They will make you feel very welcome. As most of the children will not get an opportunity to meet their sponsors, we ask that you show interest in all the children, not just your sponsored child. Please

ensure that any small gifts you may bring can be shared (eg boxes of sweets, pens and pencils, books for the library, etc).

If going shopping with students in the local market, please take advice from Tong-Len staff on appropriate items to purchase.

Charity regulations in India prohibit foreigners making cash donations to Tong-Len Charitable Trust. Also, please never give cash to our students or their families as this can cause huge problems for everyone. If you want to donate, please do so through the website [www.tong-len.org](http://www.tong-len.org) – this way we can ensure that all the students benefit equally from your generosity.

The Tong-Len children are very fortunate to be given an opportunity to escape life in the slums and to have a happy and secure future thanks to the support of their sponsors. This support is greatly appreciated by us all. We are always happy to talk to our sponsors if there are further queries.