



The Asra Hawariat School Fund

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Introduction

The Asra Hawariat School in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, is a non-fee paying, non-religious and non-political voluntary organisation working with those children and families who could not otherwise afford to get an education. The school began in 1961 when Asfaw Yemiru, the founder, was a 9th grade student at the British Council-run General Wingate School. When his classes were over Asfaw started to teach local street children under a tree in the local Church yard; the children were fed on left-over food from Wingate, and they slept in the Church yard. This was put on a more permanent footing in 1961, owing to a grant of land from the then-Emperor Haile Selassie, and the children were able to sleep under cover, on shelves at the side of the classrooms.

In 1965, when the number of students had reached 1000, the school was officially recognised by the Ministry of Education. Since then the school, in addition to its core educational work, has run a number of additional humanitarian projects: an orphanage; Child and Family Aid, including fostering children with local families; a vocational farm; a feeding centre for malnourished children; a kindergarten and various training programmes. Since its foundation, it has reached and helped over 120,000 of the poorest citizens of Ethiopia's capital city. The school runs two campuses in the west of the city, one for grades 1-4 and the other for grades 5-8.

The Asra Hawariat School Fund (UK Registered Charity 325121) provides 100% of the school's funding.

The School

The school currently has 1040 students, 551 of whom are girls. First priority is given to those children who have lost one or both of their parents; next, priority is given to children whose lives are seriously disrupted by poverty and who would find even the limited costs of a state education (uniform, books, stationery etc) beyond them. Prospective students are screened by a committee comprising the school principal, social workers and selected representatives of parent whose children are already at the school. Once they are accepted, the children are provided with a completely free education with some material support for the neediest.

The school's slight bias in favour of girls is deliberate as the school believes strongly that female education is vital to social stability and economic growth – as has been borne out by countless studies from many parts of the world.



Our Staff

There are 48 teaching staff, some of whom are experienced teachers from the state sector, and some of whom are our own former students. Of these 4 are qualified to certificate level, 35 to diploma level and 9 have degrees.

The school follows the national curriculum, with adjustments – English Language is taught from 1st grade, science and mathematics are given extra emphasis. Class sizes are kept small – few classes have more than 30 children, in marked contrast to the state sector where classes of 80+ are not uncommon. This latter, combined with a reputation for good exam results, firm but fair discipline and traditional teaching methods, is one of the main factors behind the school's popularity with parents.

The Fund has also paid for the installation of ICT suites on each campus and is actively researching the possibility of internet access, although this is proving problematical.

In August 2017 the school held a week-long workshop on improving the quality of education, attended by teaching and administrative staff, parents, guardians and members of the wider community. It was a wide-ranging and constructive time in which all school stakeholders were encouraged to deepen their involvement with the school.

One positive outcome of this process is the fact that the school is now reinforcing its monitoring and evaluation processes. The Fund is also working with the school management to ensure maximum involvement by the next generation of leaders in all stages of planning and administration, and to ensure that all policies, procedures and legal frameworks are robust and effective. We live in a changing world, and Ethiopia is very much part of that world.

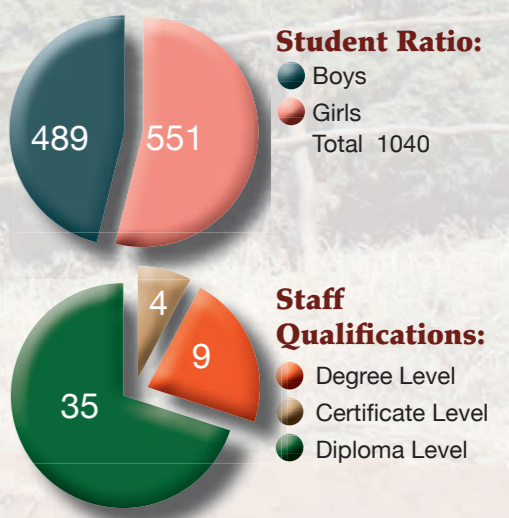
School Clubs

There are several lively and educational school clubs, including Health and Sanitation Club (60 members), Literature, Drama and Music (90), Girls' Club (150), Sports and Arts (80), Civics (figures not available), Environmental Protection and Beautification (75), Child Rights and Advocacy (80).

Agriculture

The farm thrives, acting both as a demonstration farm and as a source of fresh milk and vegetables for the Child Aid families. There are 60 head of cattle, and significant production of spinach, carrots, cabbage, beetroot, lettuce, onion, garlic and various local delicacies such as kitma, gesha and koba. The school also has a small greenhouse to grow fruit-tree seedlings, such

as apple and plum. These seedlings are then given out to students and their families to plant at home or in their neighbourhood (space permitting). Both campuses are well planted with indigenous trees – one of the great pleasures of visiting the school is to see the kids, who live in crowded slum conditions, playing in extensive and well-planned natural surroundings.



Legal & Administrative details

The Asra Hawariat School Fund was founded by a Declaration of Trust dated 10th October 1974, and is registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales as Charity No.325121. The objects of the Charity are the relief of poverty and the advancement of education in Ethiopia through the work of the Asra Hawariat School. The Fund has no paid staff and is run on an entirely voluntary basis. The Trustees of the Fund are Carolyn Barker-Mill, Gillian Cloke, Richard Cloke, Nicholas Kaye, Timothy Kinahan, Charles Sherlock and Martha Street.



Other Activities

Health Service

In the school's health service and awareness creation program, more emphasis is given on preventive methods than cure. The important issues in health education are videotaped in Amharic and English and are used as visual aids to stress the importance of leading a healthy and happy life. The lessons in health education deal among other things with keeping the body, hair, clothes, shoes and homes clean. Sex education, and prevention methods for HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases are also taught.

The clinic, now in its splendid new premises, also gives first aid and small-scale medical service to the school community. Headaches, worm infestations, minor skin wounds, etc. are the most frequent student health problems. Treatment of minor infections is carried out at the clinic as are basic vaccinations. Children with severe problems that cannot be treated at the clinic are accompanied by the school nurse to local health centres and hospitals.



The School Library

The school library has a wide range of books, periodicals, reference materials and teaching aids. There are over 7000 books in the library classified into different subjects. The reading room of the library is used by students, teachers and interested members of the school community except on Sundays and public holidays.

The library would be vastly improved with an influx of new, up-to-date books: although things are improving, too much of what is in stock is well past its sell-by date.



Funding

The school budget for 2018 has meant that the Fund is now committed to sending £11,000 monthly out to the school. For a small charity, this a huge undertaking and will require a significant injection of extra core and one-off funding. Last year, as you will see from the attached accounts, we were remarkably successful. But we cannot afford to relax.

Thank you to all who have made it possible.

Thanks

Thanks are due, once again, to our auditors, David Harrison and Co of Belfast, and to Print Revolution of Nottingham, who have kindly designed and printed this report. All without charge.

And, not least, thanks to all our supporters, whose remarkable generosity in difficult economic times has ensured another good year, and who have helped turn so many dreams into reality.

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New website

Our new website www.asrahawariatschool.org is now up and running.

Many thanks to Tim Hawthorne (volunteer teacher 1970-71) for all his hard work on this.

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