



CARING FOR OUR STUDENTS DURING THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC

The situation in India remains uncertain and lockdown has put many more millions of lives at risk.

Our Day Scholars

For our day scholars in lockdown in the slums where they live, the need is varied and requires a tailored approach which is constantly evolving.

Most people in the slums rely on daily wages that stopped when the country went into sudden lockdown. Dying of hunger is now as big a fear as the virus. We deliver emergency food packs to the families and will continue to ensure their basic needs are met.

Besides food we help our day scholars with school equipment and connectivity through mobile phones. This way we can communicate with them, offer support and provide some daily structure through basic on-line education. No schooling at all is a disaster for these children who have so little stimulation and few role models to guide them.



Lessons started with WhatsApp but are now taking place with CISCO Webex. Both our students and teachers are learning new ways of working. Our aim is to reach 100% of our children during lockdown.

As the duration of this situation is unknown, the importance of creating online learning for these children and stimulating them mentally is crucial.



Our Resident Children

130 children and young people have been in lockdown in our six homes since 29th March. Our houseparents and staff are working around the clock to provide stimulating activities to keep the children physically and mentally occupied and to continue their education.



Our teachers deliver online lessons, set homework and take an overview of their class welfare, whilst the houseparents oversee on-line interaction with role models—from chef Vikas of Kolkata's Flurys to Grammy award winning tabla player, Tanmoy Bose or Tollywood actor Arjun Chakraborty. Many of our own staff and volunteers make time to read stories or to challenge the children on their general knowledge through on-line quizzes.



Mental health is key at this time and we are making sure that all the children get time with our counsellor and take part in group activities. Although not allowed to leave the building the children exercise every day to stay strong and release pent up energy, whether it be yoga, burpees, tug of war, dancing or running up and down stairs.

