

Restoring the Original St Nicholas Foundation Building

Preserving a Place of Learning,
Community and Hope



St Nicholas
Preparatory School
Tema New Town, Ghana



Where the story began

For more than fifteen years, a modest building in Tema New Town has served as far more than a structure of concrete and walls.

Originally constructed around 2008 alongside the St Nicholas Orthodox Church, the building was created to support the church community and visiting seafarers. Over the years it became a gathering place for people from many nations and backgrounds. It hosted St Nicholas Day celebrations, welcomed visitors from Greece, Cyprus and beyond, received Olympic athletes, government representatives and community leaders, and served as a home away from home for members of the Greek diaspora living and working in Ghana.

The church itself became a beacon for seafarers of all nationalities arriving through the nearby port, while the surrounding facilities supported community activities, healthcare initiatives, agricultural projects and charitable outreach.

In 2012, the building began a new chapter when it became the first school building on the St Nicholas campus.

From these classrooms began the educational journey of St Nicholas Preparatory School, a school that today combines quality education with the values of service, compassion and cultural understanding.

Over the years, the school has become known by many as **“the Greek School in Ghana”**, reflecting not only the long-standing support it has received from Greek individuals, families, foundations, businesses and community organisations, but also its role in fostering an appreciation of the Greek language, Orthodox tradition and the enduring values of Hellenism alongside the education it provides.

Since then, more **than 300 children** have passed through its doors, taking their first steps in education, building confidence, learning to read and write, and discovering opportunities that might otherwise have remained beyond their reach.

Today, the building remains standing, but **it can no longer be safely used**.



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Built through the generosity of maritime families, seafarers, shipowners, the Greek diaspora and friends of St Nicholas.





The Challenge

- Coastal environment
- Structural deterioration
- Independent engineering assessment
- Kindergarten classrooms currently affected
- Toilet block also affected
- Building withdrawn from use for safety reasons

■ Today, 50 kindergarten children are unable to use the classrooms originally built for them.



Why Restoration Is Needed



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Following years of exposure to the harsh coastal environment and proximity to the sea, the building has suffered significant structural deterioration.

An independent structural integrity survey carried out by qualified engineers identified the need for extensive remedial works, including structural reinforcement, repairs to damaged masonry, damp-proofing and restoration of weakened elements.

The adjoining toilet and washroom facilities, used by both the school and church community, also require significant refurbishment.

As a result, two kindergarten classrooms serving approximately fifty children are currently affected, limiting the school's ability to use facilities that were originally created for exactly this purpose.



Project Budget

Project Component	GBP	USD*	EUR*	GHS*
Building Restoration	30,000	35,100	40,200	608,000
Toilet & Washroom Block Restoration	13,000	15,200	17,400	263,000
Professional Fees, Contingency & Project Completion	6,450	7,550	8,650	131,000
Total Project Funding Target	49,450	57,850	66,250	1,002,000

**Approximate equivalents based on current exchange rates. Actual values may vary.*

Project Funding Target: £50,000

Approximately GHS 1,000,000 | €58,000 | US\$66,000

The project funding target reflects the estimated construction costs together with professional oversight and a prudent contingency to accommodate unforeseen structural issues and ensure the successful completion of the restoration.

Estimated Project Duration: 2–3 months following commencement of works.

Why Restore Rather than Rebuild?

Independent engineering assessment has confirmed that the existing building can be safely restored and returned to full use.

Constructing a comparable new facility would require an estimated budget of approximately **£130,000** and would take between **8 and 12 months** before becoming operational.

Restoration represents the most responsible and cost-effective solution, allowing the Foundation to preserve an important part of its heritage while returning essential classrooms to use much sooner and at significantly lower cost.



The Solution

What will your support achieve?

Main Building Restoration

- structural reinforcement
- damp treatment
- masonry repairs
- concrete jacketing
- internal and external restoration

Washroom & Toilet Block Restoration

- roof replacement
- repair works
- sanitation improvements



The building can be restored and safely returned to use through the recommended programme of remedial works.

The restoration project also preserves the opportunity to develop the first floor in the future as accommodation for volunteers and visiting groups and/or as a community health clinic, further extending the Foundation's service to both the school and the wider community.



The Restoration Project

The proposed works include:

Main Building

- Demolition and replacement of damaged masonry sections
- Structural reinforcement of key load-bearing elements
- Retrofitting and concrete jacketing works
- Damp-proofing and building treatment
- Excavation and strengthening works where required
- Formwork installation and structural repairs
- Internal and external plastering and finishing works
- Protective coatings and external wall restoration

Toilet and Washroom Block

- Roof replacement
- Demolition of damaged sections
- Plastering and rendering
- Carpentry repairs
- Steel reinforcement works
- Fence wall repairs and restoration

All works will be carried out under the supervision of the structural engineering team responsible for the building assessment and recommendations.



Why This Matters to the Maritime Community

This is not simply a building restoration project.

It is the preservation of:

- A lasting expression of maritime philanthropy
- A symbol of the long-standing friendship between Greece and Ghana
- A legacy created through the generosity of shipowners, seafarers and maritime families
- A place visited and supported by crews, shipping companies and international partners for more than fifteen years

- The first school building of St Nicholas Preparatory School
- The educational starting point for more than 300 children
- A practical demonstration of Hellenism in action through education, compassion and service

By restoring this building, we are protecting an important part of the Foundation's history while ensuring it can continue serving children and the wider community for many years to come.

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"The Original Foundation Building represents the generosity of the maritime community and the belief that education can change lives. Restoring it is not simply a construction project. It is the continuation of a promise made many years ago."

Deborah Eleazar, Trustee



How You Can Help



For more than fifteen years, this building has stood as a testament to what can be achieved when people come together with a shared sense of responsibility and compassion.

Originally created to serve the church community and visiting seafarers, it later became the first home of St Nicholas Preparatory School, where more than 300 children have since begun their educational journey.

We invite individuals, companies, foundations, churches, maritime organisations, community groups and friends of St Nicholas to join us in preserving this important legacy.



Every contribution will help restore a building that has served generations and will continue to serve generations yet to come.

Together, we can ensure that the place where the St Nicholas story began remains a place of learning, community and hope.

Your contribution will help:

- Return safe classroom space to approximately 50 kindergarten children
- Restore essential sanitation facilities
- Improve safety for students, staff, church members and visitors
- Preserve a key community asset
- Strengthen the long-term sustainability of the school

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Most importantly, your support will help ensure that children continue to learn in an environment that is safe, secure and fit for purpose.



Your support will also help preserve a unique centre of Greek culture, Orthodox tradition and educational opportunity in West Africa.

We invite individuals, companies, foundations, churches and community organisations to partner with us in restoring this important facility.

Every contribution, large or small, brings us closer to reopening the building and providing children with the safe learning environment they deserve.

Together, we can preserve this valuable resource and continue investing in the future of Ghana's children.

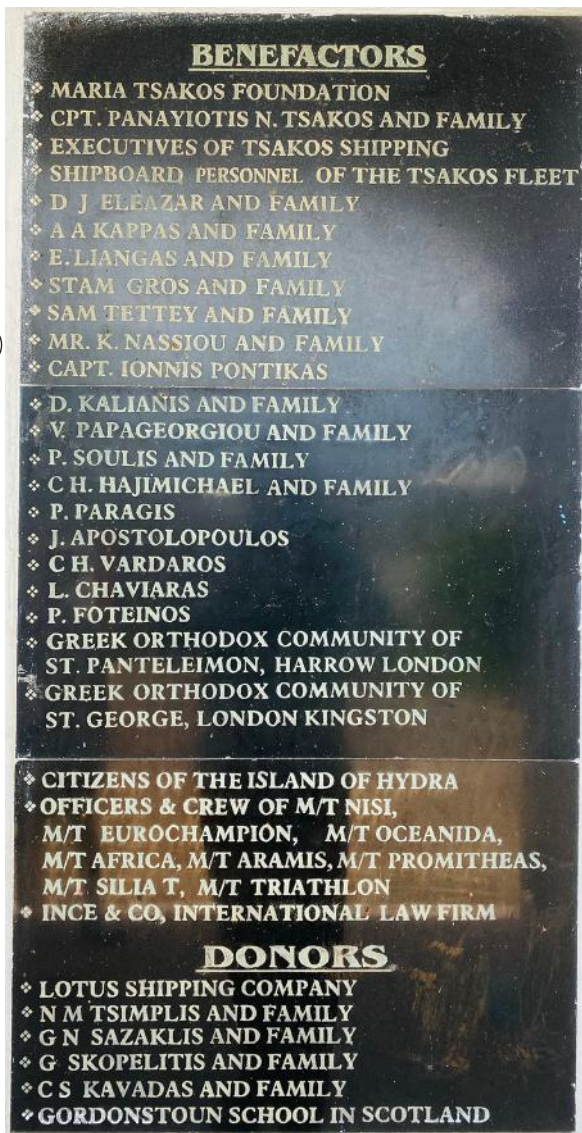


Honouring Those Who Made It Possible

More than thirty benefactors from Greece, Ghana, the United Kingdom and the maritime community came together to create the Original Foundation Building.

Their generosity laid the foundations for a school that has since provided education, care and opportunity to more than 300 children.

By restoring this building today, we honour their vision and ensure that the legacy they entrusted to us continues to serve future generations.





Further technical information is available to prospective supporters upon request. Supporting technical documentation, including the structural assessment, engineering recommendations and detailed cost estimates, is available upon request.

How to Donate

Your support will help restore the Original St Nicholas Foundation Building and preserve an important part of the school's history for future generations.

When making your donation, please include the

Payment Reference: Original Building Restoration

Thank you for helping preserve a legacy that continues to transform lives through education.

UK ACCOUNTS

STERLING ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT NAME: ST NICHOLAS FOUNDATION
BANK: NATWEST
ACCOUNT NO: 68619324
SORT CODE: 51-50-14
BIC: NWBK GB 2L
IBAN: GB58 NWBK 5150 1468 6193 24

STERLING ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT NAME: ST NICHOLAS FOUNDATION
BANK: RBS
ACCOUNT NO: 50821814
ACCOUNT NAME: RE ST NICHOLAS
FOUNDATION
SORT CODE: 16-0101
BIC: RBS02 GB 2L
IBAN: GB78RBOS1601 0150 8218 14

EURO ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT NAME: ST NICHOLAS FOUNDATION
BANK: NATWEST
ACCOUNT NO: 550/00/70050406
NXNGHMGG-EURO00
IBAN: GB49NWBK60721170050406
IBAN BIC: NWBKGB2L

USD ACCOUNT

ACCOUNT NAME: ST NICHOLAS FOUNDATION
BANK: RBS
ACCOUNT NO: TSSHST-USDC
ACCOUNT NAME: RE ST NICHOLAS FUND
IBAN: GB75RB0516630000370278
IBAN BIC: RBOSGB2L



St. Nicholas
Preparatory School

Tema Ghana

ST. NICHOLAS CHARITY FOUNDATION
P. O. Box CO 211, TEMA TEL: +233-503883532
EMAIL: stnicholasprepschool@gmail.com
Website: <https://stnicholasschoolghana.com>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StNicholasTema/>
UK Registered Charity No. 1164193