

THE SCHOOL

Named after the first Prime Minister of Sierra Leone, the Milton Margai School for the Blind was founded in the capital, Freetown, in 1956 with just three pupils and one teacher. Today it has 83 pupils, boys and girls, and 24 teaching and auxiliary staff. It is the only school for the blind in Freetown.

The School is residential and the pupils come from all parts of Sierra Leone. It follows the national curriculum for primary schools and after the pupils have completed their primary education they go on to mainstream secondary schools in the capital whilst still residing at the school.

The turmoil of Sierra Leone's eleven year rebel war saw the school suffer many hardships. Situated next to the Deaf School and the Army Headquarters on Wilkinson Road in Freetown, the School was evacuated during the coup in 1997, and was badly damaged during the mayhem of January 1999, when in the space of 10 days in Freetown 7,000 people were brutally murdered, thousands more had their limbs amputated or were raped, and half the city was destroyed. Some of the pupils were deliberately blinded by the rebels and many others lost family members.

The School receives some support from the Sierra Leone Government but this is limited given the state of the country's economy, and its running is largely dependent upon the help and support of benefactors and well-wishers.



Music plays an important part in the School's activities. Under the guidance and leadership of its headmaster, Sam Campbell, himself blind and a noted musician and composer, the school choir is regarded as one of the finest in the whole of Sierra Leone. In 2003 the choir, comprising 36 children and young adults, undertook a tour of the United Kingdom. They gave 16 major concerts over three weeks throughout the country, culminating in an inspiring concert in Westminster Abbey.

The School is twinned with the RLSB Dorton House School in Sevenoaks, Kent. The pupils correspond with one another in Braille and the staff of the schools have paid reciprocal visits.

For more information visit the website www.miltonmargaischool.org

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name

Address.....
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Telephone.....

e-mail

I wish to become a member of the UK Association for the Milton Margai School for the Blind in Sierra Leone and agree to abide by its rules and regulations.

SignedDate.....

I enclose a voluntary contribution/donation of £.....*

I am a UK taxpayer and would like to make this and any further donations as a Gift Aid Donation.

SignedDate.....

* cheques should be made payable to Milton Margai School for the Blind, Sierra Leone.

Please return this form to The UK Association for the Milton Margai School for the Blind in Sierra Leone, c/o 65, Severn Grove, Pontlanna, Cardiff CF1 9EP
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